



## Amid urgent climate warnings, EPA gives coal a reprieve

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Amid scientists' increasingly urgent warnings, the Trump administration ordered a sweeping about-face Wednesday on Obama-era efforts to fight climate change, easing restrictions on coal-fired power plants in a move it predicted would revitalize America's sagging coal industry.

As miners in hard hats and coal-country lawmakers applauded, Environmental Protection Agency chief Andrew Wheeler signed a measure that scraps one of President Barack Obama's key initiatives to rein in fossil fuel emissions. The replacement rule gives states more leeway in deciding whether to require plants to make limited efficiency upgrades.

Wheeler said he expects more coal plants to open as a result.

Continued on Page 3



In this July 27, 2018, file photo, the Dave Johnson coal-fired power plant is silhouetted against the morning sun in Glenrock, Wyo. Associated Press

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## Hicks rebuffs questions on Trump White House in interview

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and LAURIE KELLMAN  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Former top White House adviser Hope Hicks refused to answer questions related to her time in the White House in a daylong interview with the House Judiciary Committee, dimming Democrats' chances of obtaining new or substantive information about President Donald Trump in their first interview with a person linked to his inner circle.

Frustrated Democrats leaving the meeting Wednesday said Hicks and her lawyer rigidly followed White House orders to stay quiet about her time there and said they would be forced to go to court to obtain answers.



Former White House communications director Hope Hicks arrives for closed-door interview with the House Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, June 19, 2019. Associated Press

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., said Hicks' lawyers asserted the White House's principle that as one of Trump's close advisers she is "absolutely immune" from talking about her time

there because of separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches. Nadler said that principle is "ridiculous" and Democrats intend to "destroy" it in court. Nadler said the commit-

tee plans to take the administration to court on the immunity issue, and Hicks' interview would be part of that litigation.

In a letter Tuesday to Nadler, White House counsel Pat Cipollone wrote that Trump had directed Hicks not to answer questions "relating to the time of her service as a senior adviser to the president." The White House has similarly cited broad executive privilege with respect to many of the Democrats' other investigative demands, using the president's power to withhold information to protect the confidentiality of the Oval Office decision-making process.

Hicks did answer some questions about her time on Trump's campaign, the lawmakers said, but they said they learned little that was new.

"She's objecting to stuff that's already in the public record," California Rep. Karen Bass said on a break from the interview. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., called her answers "a farce."

California Rep. Ted Lieu tweeted about the meeting while it was ongoing, writing that Hicks refused to answer even innocuous questions such as whether she had previously testified before Congress and where her office was located in the White House.

In all, she was behind closed doors for eight hours, with an hourlong break for lunch.

Democrats pressed Hicks on episodes she might have witnessed as one of Trump's closest advisers. During questioning about the campaign, Rep. Madeleine Dean, D-Pa., said she asked Hicks if she had been aware of any outreach from the Russians. After

Hicks responded no, Dean named apparent contacts, such as emails, some of which are mentioned in special counsel Robert Mueller's report. Hicks said she hadn't thought those contacts were "relevant," according to Dean.

Republicans had a different perspective, saying she was cooperative and the interview was a waste of time, especially in light of Mueller's two-year investigation. The top Republican on the panel, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, said after the interview that the committee "took eight hours to find out what really most of us knew at the beginning."

Hicks was a key witness for Mueller, delivering important information to the special counsel's office about multiple episodes involving the president. Mueller wrote in his report released in April that there was not enough evidence to establish a criminal conspiracy between Trump's 2016 campaign and Russia, but said he could not exonerate Trump on obstruction of justice. The report examined several situations in which Trump attempted to influence or curtail Mueller's investigation.

Democrats has planned to ask Hicks about several of those episodes, including efforts to remove Mueller from the investigation, pressure on former Attorney General Jeff Sessions and the firing of FBI Director James Comey. They also planned to ask about Hicks' knowledge of hush-money payments orchestrated by former Trump lawyer Michael Cohen to two women who claimed to have had affairs with Trump — the porn actress Stormy Daniels and model Karen McDougal. Trump has denied the allegations. □



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### EPA

#### Continued from Front

But one state, New York, immediately said it would go to court to challenge the action, and more lawsuits are likely.

The EPA move follows pledges by candidate and then President Donald Trump to rescue the U.S. coal industry, which saw near-record numbers of plant closings last year in the face of competition from cheaper natural gas and renewables. It's the latest and one of the biggest of dozens of environmental regulatory rollbacks by his administration.

It came despite scientists' cautions that the world must cut fossil fuel emissions to stave off the worst of global warming and the EPA's own analysis that the new rule would result in the deaths of an extra 300 to 1,500 people each year by 2030 compared to the never fully enacted Clean Power Plan, owing to additional air pollution from the power grid.

"Americans want reliable energy that they can afford," Wheeler declared at the signing ceremony, with White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney alongside to underscore Trump's approval.

There's no denying "fossil fuels will continue to be an important part of the mix," Wheeler said.

Lawmakers and industry representatives from coal states blamed federal regulation, not the market, for the decadeslong trend of declining U.S. coal use and said Wednesday's act would stave off more coal plant closings.

"We're not ready for renew-

able energy ... so we need coal," declared Rep. David McKinley, a West Virginia Republican.

But rather than a sensible economic move, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi described the change as a "dirty power scam" and "a stunning giveaway to big polluters." She called climate change "the existential threat of our time" and said the administration was ignoring scientific studies and yielding to special interests.

Obama's 2015 Clean Power Plan is currently stayed by the Supreme Court while challenges play out from more than two dozen states that contend it exceeded authority under the federal Clean Air Act. Environmental advocates and Obama-era EPA officials involved in drafting the now-repealed plan said Trump's replacement rule will do little to cut climate-damaging emissions from coal-fired power plants, at a time when polls show Americans are increasingly paying attention to global warming.

"I can't think of a single rule that would do more to set back the effort to do what we need to do to address the critical threat of climate change," said Joe Goffman, who helped draft the repealed Clean Power Plan.

The Obama plan aimed at encouraging what already had been market-driven changes in the nation's electrical grid, pushing coal-fired power plants out and prodding utilities to rely more on natural gas, solar, wind and other lower- or no-carbon fuels.

Obama EPA head Gina

McCarthy said Trump officials had "made painfully clear that they are incapable of rising to the challenge and tackling this crisis. They have shown a callous disregard for EPA's mission, a pattern of climate science denial and an inexcusable indifference to the consequences of climate change."

Burning of fossil fuels for electricity, transportation and heat is the main human source of heat-trapping carbon emissions. Administration officials argue climate science is imperfect, and that it's not clear climate change would have as great an impact as forecast. □



Deputy Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette, left, Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, and Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Mary B. Neumayr, stand as EPA administrator Andrew Wheeler looks up after signing the Affordable Clean Energy Rule during a media availability at the Environmental Protection Agency, Wednesday, June 19, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

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## White House offers budget freeze if Dems don't agree to deal

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

Trump administration bargainers offered a one-year budget freeze and said Democratic spending demands remained too high as talks with congressional leaders aimed at averting deep cuts in defense and domestic programs this autumn seemed no closer to resolution.

Firing back, Democrats said White House involvement in the negotiations was hindering progress and rejected the proposed freeze.

The exchange suggested the two sides were not near a handshake to avert automatic cuts and instead boost both defense and domestic programs, perhaps for two years. Without some agreement, overall spending would be slashed by \$125 billion starting Oct. 1, when the federal fiscal year begins, a roughly 10 percent reduction in agency budgets that both parties consider too draconian.

Emerging from a bargaining session in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office that lasted over an hour, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that without an accord, the White House was prepared to prevent the automatic cut but force agencies to live with a less severe, one-year extension of this year's budget.

Mnuchin said the administration would also agree to extend the federal debt limit for a year. The government is projected to deplete its legal ability to borrow money after the summer, which would prompt an unprecedented failure by the government to repay its debt that could rattle the world's economy.

"The president has every intention of keeping the



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., talks to reporters at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

Associated Press

government open and keeping the soundness of the full faith and credit of the government," Mnuchin told reporters. He said both sides agreed not to hold the debt limit "hostage to spending."

In a joint statement after the meeting, Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., bristled at White House involvement in the negotiations. They said Democrats "are committed" to working with congressional Republicans to avert automatic spending cuts, the constraints of a budget freeze and the threat of a federal default.

"If the House and Senate could work their will without interference from the President, we could come to a good agreement much more quickly," the two Democrats said.

Schumer later told reporters that "unfortunately" the White House has joined the talks.

"Leader McConnell is just in obeisance to the White House, and so that's where we're stuck right now," Schumer said, referring to his Republican counterpart, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

Schumer also said a one-year freeze "is bad policy, it's bad politics and it's a fall back. We should be negotiating a bill."

Democrats have been pushing for increased spending for domestic programs, not a freeze, as a tradeoff for the big Pentagon increases that President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans are demanding.

Acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, ex-

iting the negotiating session, said Democrats had actually increased their demand for domestic spending since the last bargaining session in May to \$647 billion, which he said is \$8 billion above their previous offer.

"So you tell me if things are moving in the right direction. Last time I checked, that's not how you compromise," Mulvaney said.

Democrats made no new spending offer Wednesday and mentioned the \$647 billion figure to note the total price tag of spending bills the House has produced, said a Democrat familiar with the talks who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the bargaining.

Also Wednesday, the Democratic-controlled House passed a \$1 trillion spending bill that amounts to an

opening bid in the guns vs. butter fight with the Trump administration.

The House voted along party lines to pass the bill, which blends the military spending that's a priority for Republicans with Democratic-sought funding increases for health and education programs.

The House-passed bill far exceeds Trump's budget request for domestic programs, attracting a White House veto threat, and denies him his full Pentagon budget increase.

It also contains policy "riders" related to abortion and other hot-button issues that drove away potential GOP supporters, though Democrats sidestepped a potentially divisive battle by preserving a longtime ban on taxpayer-financed abortion.

The bill boosts the Pentagon budget by about \$16 billion over current levels, about a 2% increase, while giving health, education and labor programs an almost 7% boost. Those numbers would have to balance out more to gain Trump's signature.

Action on the measure comes as Democrats have been struggling to get their message out above the political din of Trump's Washington. The bill wraps four of the 12 annual spending measures into one, and Democrats are boasting of gains for Head Start, health research and fighting the opioid epidemic, among the myriad programs covered by the measure.

It also contains provisions to block Trump from reassigning military appropriations to fund his border wall, and contains significantly more money for family planning, preschool education and child care, and research into dangerous diseases. □

# Judge: New documents warrant further look at census question

By JONATHAN DREW  
Associated Press

A federal judge said Wednesday that he's inclined to reexamine whether a proposed 2020 census citizenship question violates the rights of minorities after reviewing newly discovered documents from a deceased political operative.

U.S. District Judge George Hazel of Maryland ruled that plaintiffs have produced enough evidence to warrant reopening the case, even though he already has ruled in their favor on other grounds. His ability to consider altering his ruling based on the new evidence would depend on a federal appeals court returning it to him.

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to decide soon whether the citizenship question should be included. It is unclear whether Hazel's order might affect the high court case.

Voting rights activists argue newly discovered emails between the late GOP mapmaker Thomas Hofeller and a current Census Bureau official show the citizenship question was intended to discriminate. Hazel's brief ruling Wednesday, only several paragraphs long, said he concluded that the new evidence "raises a substantial issue" and granted a motion by the plaintiffs for another look at the equal protection issue. It wasn't clear when he would issue a longer opinion explaining his reasoning.

The Justice Department declined comment through a spokeswoman Wednesday, but has previously denied that the new documents show discriminatory intent.

The Commerce Department issued a statement Wednesday that it "strenuously" disagrees with the ruling and called the plaintiffs' use of the Hofeller documents "a transparent ploy to derail the Supreme Court's consideration of this case at the last possible



In this April 23, 2019 file photo, Immigration activists rally outside the Supreme Court as the justices hear arguments over the Trump administration's plan to ask about citizenship on the 2020 census, in Washington.

Associated Press

minute."

Hazel had ruled in April to block the addition of the citizenship question, but found at the time that the voting rights activists failed to prove their equal protection rights were violated. But the plaintiffs went back to court this month citing a new trove of Hofeller documents, first revealed in late May as part of a New York case. They said the documents showed that Hofeller played a role in drafting Justice Department documents regarding the citizenship question, and that Hofeller had explained in a separate memo that the addition would help "Republicans and Non-Hispanic Whites."

The documents were discovered when his estranged daughter found four external computer hard drives and 18 thumb drives in her father's Raleigh, North Carolina, home after his death last summer. Challengers to the citizenship question also have cit-

ed the documents in New York federal court and at the Supreme Court in their effort to keep the question off the 2020 census. Further review of the documents last week uncovered a January 2015 email exchange between Hofeller and a current census official discussing the issue of citizenship in regards to the census, according to filings before Hazel.

The U.S. Supreme Court is currently considering the citizenship question after Hazel's ruling and similar ones by judges in New York and California who concluded the question was improperly added to the

U.S. census for what would be the first time since 1950. The high court could rule by July.

Voting rights groups have argued that the citizenship question would serve to strengthen GOP congressional representation and funding for areas where mostly Republicans reside by suppressing the count of immigrants. States with large numbers of immigrants tend to vote Democratic.

The apportionment of congressional seats is based on a count of the total U.S. population, including non-citizens, according to the Census Bureau. □

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# AP-NORC poll: Majority worry about 2020 foreign meddling



In this Sept. 20, 2018 photo, voting booths stand ready in downtown Minneapolis for the opening of early voting in Minnesota.

**RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)** — A majority of Americans are concerned that a foreign government might interfere in some way in the 2020 presidential election, whether by tampering with election results, stealing information or by influencing candidates or voter opinion, a new poll shows. The poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds Democrats far more likely to express the highest level of concern, but Democrats and Republicans alike have at least some concerns about interference. Overall, half of Americans say they're extremely or very concerned about foreign interference in the form of altered election results or voting systems, even though hackers bent on causing widespread havoc at polling places face challenges in doing so. An additional quarter is somewhat concerned. Similarly, about half are very concerned by the prospect of foreign govern-

ments influencing political candidates or affecting voters' perceptions of the candidates, along with hacking candidate computer systems to steal information. In total, the poll, conducted Thursday through Monday, shows 63% of Americans have major concerns about at least one of those types of foreign election interference, including 80% of Democrats and 46% of Republicans. The results make clear that despite the efforts of U.S. officials to ward off election interference and to urge public awareness and calm, Americans remain anxious that some of the same tactics Russia used to meddle in the 2016 presidential election could surface again in the next race. Those include the spread of disinformation online to sow divisions among American voters, and the hacking by military intelligence officers of Democratic emails that were then published by WikiLeaks in the run-up

to the election. The efforts were aimed at helping Republican Donald Trump over Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, according to special counsel Robert Mueller's report. "I think that it's been pretty well-documented that people have been influenced in the past by social media," said Luci Dvorak, 32, an Illinois teacher. She said she found it concerning that Trump has been "very casual" about getting foreign help and even seemed to invite it. Trump said in a television interview last week that he would be open to receiving a foreign government's help in the next election. He slightly walked back those comments in a follow-up interview, saying that though he would want to look at foreign dirt on an opponent to assess if it was correct, he would "of course" also report it to the FBI or the attorney general. U.S. officials are on high alert to protect against interference like what occurred in 2016. FBI Director

Chris Wray has said the bureau regards last November's midterm elections as a "dress rehearsal for the big show in 2020." He has said efforts to undermine democracy and influence public opinion through social media, propaganda and false personas have continued unabated and are "not just an election-cycle threat." "We saw that, therefore, continue full speed in 2018, in the midterms," Wray said in April at a Council on Foreign Relations event. "What we did not see in 2018 was any material impact or interference with election infrastructure or, you know, campaign infrastructure." The decentralized nature of the country's elections, which are run on a local level and rely on different and varied voting systems, would make it hard for hackers to cause widespread problems. But concerns remain: Russian hackers gained access to voter databases in two Florida counties ahead of the 2016 election. Federal

authorities also plan to examine North Carolina polling equipment that used software by a company targeted by Russian military hackers to determine if intentional tampering occurred aimed at disrupting voting.

The poll was conducted roughly two months after the release of Mueller's report on his investigation into potential coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia.

That report did not establish a criminal conspiracy between Trump associates and the Kremlin to sway the outcome of the election. It did not reach a conclusion on whether the president had criminally obstructed justice, citing a Justice Department legal opinion that says sitting presidents cannot be indicted.

Trump has repeatedly said the report found "no collusion" and claimed vindication in Attorney General William Barr's announcement that he found Mueller's evidence insufficient to establish an obstruction charge.

The poll shows about half of Americans think the Mueller report did not completely clear Trump of obstruction, while many also think it didn't clear him of coordinating with Russia.

Overall, 48% said they think the report didn't clear Trump of obstruction, while just 20% think it did. Another 30% say they don't know enough to say.

Many Americans — 44% — also think the report did not clear Trump of coordination with Russia, while 24% think it did and 31% aren't sure.

"It's the twisting of the opposition party that's given him all this static, where he's not able to move or do what he'd like to do," said 88-year-old Dennis Halaszynski, who is retired and lives in McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

"They said at the beginning that he's going to go to jail, and they're doing their best to put him in jail," he added. "He's just not having the time, the proper time, to do what he'd like to do." □

# Staggering drug bust shows traffickers turning to East Coast

By **MICHAEL RUBINKAM**  
**Associated Press**

If drug interdiction can be compared to a giant game of whack-a-mole, federal law enforcement officials delivered one mighty wallop this week when they raided a container ship at Philadelphia's port and discovered a staggering amount of cocaine. Hidden inside seven shipping containers were 33,000 pounds (15,000 kilograms) of the illicit drug, one of the largest caches ever intercepted on U.S. shores and a quantity that's almost "beyond comprehension," as Patrick Trainor, a spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency in Philadelphia, put it Wednesday. Federal officials estimated the seized drugs had a street value of more than \$1 billion. The feds' find was another sign that traffickers are turning to East Coast seaports as a result of increased

law enforcement pressure along the country's southwest border, a development cited by the drug enforcement agency in its latest national threat assessment. It was at least the third major bust in Philadelphia and New York since February.

"As soon as interdiction puts pressure on one place, it just pops up somewhere else. We've continually seen that," said Nicholas Magliocca, a University of Alabama researcher who studies how traffickers adapt to interdiction. "As long as the demand is there, and there's money to be made, traffickers are going to find a way."

Cocaine use and overdose deaths are on the rise in the U.S. after years of decline as production has surged to record levels in Colombia, the source of about 90% of the U.S. supply.

Agents were doing another sweep Wednesday



The MSC Gayane is moored at the Packer Marine Terminal in Philadelphia, Wednesday, June 19, 2019.

**Associated Press**

through thousands of containers on MSC Gayane, a cargo ship owned by Swiss firm MSC Mediterranean Shipping Co., but had not found any cocaine since their initial search on Monday, according to Stephen Sapp of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Philadelphia.

Two members of the crew have been charged with conspiracy to possess co-

caine aboard a ship, but details of their case are sealed. An affidavit obtained by The Associated Press said that MSC Gayane was at sea off the west coast of South America when it was approached by more than a dozen boats loaded with cocaine. Crew members aboard the larger ship helped transfer the drugs, authorities said. The cargo ship docked in

Colombia, Peru, Panama and the Bahamas before arriving in Philadelphia early Monday. Federal authorities raided the ship later that day. The ship's second mate was arrested after agents swabbed his hands and arms and detected traces of cocaine, an affidavit said. "The 500 kilos that we got in March, good hit, good hit," said Trainor, the Philadelphia DEA agent. □

# 72 officers off streets amid probe into social media posts

By **RON TODT**  
**Associated Press**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Police Commissioner Richard Ross says 72 Philadelphia police officers have been placed on administrative duty amid an initial investigation into a national group's accusation of officers in at least five states posting racist and anti-Muslim comments on social media. Ross said he believed at least "several dozen" people would be disciplined and he expects some to be fired. The commissioner said the internal affairs division prioritized posts "clearly advocating violence or death against any protected class such as ethnicity, national origin, sex, religion and race." An independent law firm had been hired to determine whether posts were constitutionally protected before any discipline is imposed. "I am not prepared to tell

you at this point who's being disciplined and how many may be terminated, but I can tell you with a degree of certainty there are some people who will meet with that fate," Ross said Wednesday.

The posts were uncovered by a team of researchers who spent two years looking at the personal Facebook accounts of police officers from Arizona to Florida. They said they found officers bashing immigrants and Muslims, promoting racist stereotypes, identifying with right-wing militia groups and, especially, glorifying police brutality. All the posts were public.

"We've talked about, from the outset, how disturbing, how disappointing and upsetting these posts are, and they will undeniably impact police-community relations," Ross said. "There's no question that this puts us in a position to work even



Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross speaks with members of the media during a news conference in Philadelphia, Wednesday, June 19, 2019.

**Associated Press**

harder than we already do to cultivate relationships with neighborhoods and individual groups who we struggle to work with or struggle to maintain relationships with now."

Ross also announced other steps, including measures to monitor social media posts by officers, anti-bias

training for officers and preparation of a training video.

"I can't think of any other investigation that we've undertaken, at least in my 30 years, where that many people were taken off the street at one time," Ross said. He said he was a "dinosaur" who didn't

use social media, but he couldn't understand how police officers who come into contact with many different people — and who were themselves part of a diverse recruiting class — could make what he called "ridiculous assertions" about whole groups of people.

"It really makes me sick, because we are in a position to know better, we are in a position by virtue of what we do every day, and how many people you see in different walks of life that people are the same — people want the same thing out of life," he said. "... It angers me beyond belief, because it just makes our job far more difficult than it needs to be."

Following publication of the alleged posts, St. Louis' top prosecutor added 22 more names to a list of officers in that city who are not allowed to bring cases to her office. □

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## Voluntary euthanasia becomes legal in Australian state

By ROD McGUIRK

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Voluntary euthanasia became legal in an Australian state on Wednesday more than 20 years after the country repealed the world's first mercy-killing law for the terminally ill.

The process of dying in an assisted suicide after an initial approach to a doctor in Victoria state takes at least 10 days, so the first patient could die from swallowing a lethal cocktail of chemicals on June 29. Strict rules are designed to prevent terminally ill patients from traveling from overseas or interstate to access the laws.

Health Minister Jenny Mikakos said she expected as few as one patient a month would be helped to die in the first year.

"We anticipate that once the scheme has been in place for some time, we'll see between 100 and 150 patients access this



In this Tuesday, June 18, 2019, photo, pro life demonstrators gather outside the Victorian State Parliament, opposing the voluntary assisted dying laws, in Melbourne.

Associated Press

scheme every year," Mikakos told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"In the first year, we do expect the number to be quite modest — maybe

only as low as a dozen people," she added.

Four Victorian Roman Catholic bishops have signed an open letter describing Wednesday as a "new and

troubling chapter of health care in Victoria."

"We cannot cooperate with the facilitation of suicide, even when it seems motivated by empathy or

kindness," the letter said.

Any health practitioner can conscientiously object to taking part in the euthanasia process.

The euthanasia system has been implemented over 18 months since the state parliament passed the laws in 2017.

Australia's sparsely populated Northern Territory in 1995 became the first jurisdiction in the world to legalize doctor-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients. But the Australian Parliament overturned that law in 1997 after four people had been helped to die.

The Australian Parliament does not have the same power to repeal the laws of states such as Victoria, which is home to one in four Australians.

The parliament of Australia's most populous state, New South Wales, rejected a doctor-assisted suicide bill by a single vote two weeks before the Victorian law was passed. □

## Albanian government vows to punish election disruption

By LLAZAR SEMINI

Associated Press

SARANDA, Albania (AP)

— Albanian police said Wednesday they arrested five opposition supporters for allegedly damaging ballot boxes and documents to prevent upcoming municipal elections, while the government proposed punishing people convicted of election interference by prohibiting them to leave the country. The opposition is boycotting the local elections planned for June 30 and has threatened to disrupt them. Sup-



Lulzim Basha, leader of the main opposition Democratic Party, standing in background, flashes the victory sign during an anti-government protest in Tirana, Albania, Saturday, June 8, 2019.

Associated Press

porters of opposition parties and police clashed Wednesday in about half a dozen municipalities. Albanian media outlets reported that at least five civilians and officers were injured.

Police accused the people arrested of physically attacking state police officers while storming election offices in the northern Albania city of Shkodra a day earlier.

Albania's Socialist-led government insists the voting will go ahead as scheduled. Interior Minister Sander Lleshaj said police would

arrest "anyone violating the law and will deposit enough evidence for their punishment."

Prime Minister Edi Rama said the government drafted a law that would prohibit citizens convicted of hampering an election process to leave Albania for five to 10 years.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe condemned the election-related conflicts, saying instigators and perpetrators of violence should be held legally accountable. □

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## Draghi's "whatever it takes" a tough act to follow

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— European Central Bank head Mario Draghi is credited with saving the euro by using new and sometimes unorthodox policy tools. The question now is, will the next ECB president be as quick to use them - or invent new ones - as Draghi has been?

European leaders are searching for a replacement for the 71-year-old Draghi, whose term expires Oct. 31. But whether candidates share his pragmatic and activist approach is not the only consideration: Picking the ECB president is also part of complex horse trading among governments over top EU jobs. Their choice will determine whether the next ECB leader will be someone that is as ready to step up in a crisis, and as willing as Draghi

was to innovate and resist criticism. European leaders meeting Thursday and Friday will discuss top European Union jobs, though they may not yet reach a deal on any of them. Speculation so far has focused on Jens Weidmann, head of Germany's Bundesbank national central bank and an opponent of some of Draghi's new measures; Francois Villeroy de Galhau, the head of the Bank of France; former Finnish Central Bank head Erkki Liikanen, and current Finnish central banker Olli Rehn. Leaders will pick one for an eight-year, non-renewable term in a process that some think risks focusing more on national turf wars than on the policies the candidate would pursue.



In this Thursday, May 16, 2019 file photo, European Central Bank President Mario Draghi arrives for a meeting of Eurogroup Finance Ministers at the European Council headquarters in Brussels.

Associated Press

In Weidmann's favor is the fact that Germany has never held the ECB presidency since the euro was launched in 1999. He is a stimulus skeptic, however, and may face opposition from indebted countries such as Italy that have benefited from Draghi's stimulus. All the candidates have served under Draghi on the ECB's rate-setting council through their posts as heads of national central banks. Some ECB watchers are disconcerted that the job is being seen as secondary to choosing successors for Jean-Claude Juncker, the head of the EU's executive arm, the European Commission, and for Donald Tusk, president of the European Council of heads of

state and government. The thinking goes that Germany and France cannot hold both the commission and the ECB job; that means that if a German such as European parliament member Manfred Weber is chosen for the commission, Weidmann's chances at the ECB would suffer and Villeroy de Galhau's would improve — and vice versa in case of a French commission president. Yet it was the ECB that stepped up during the debt crisis and took quick action credited by many with keeping the euro from breaking up. Draghi's willingness to act was crucial during market turmoil that hit the eurozone in 2011-2012, says Holger Schmieding, chief economist at

Berenberg bank in London. "Draghi has steered the eurozone through a tremendously difficult time, through a much bigger storm than anyone could have imagined," Schmieding said. "He made sure that the ECB rose to the unforeseen challenge, in my view without breaking or violating the mandate, but under unforeseen circumstances he found new tools to help the ECB meet its mandate."

Draghi's trademark moment came on July 26, 2012, as Italy, the third largest country in the euro, was facing unsustainably high borrowing costs that threatened its financial stability. Draghi said that "within our mandate, the ECB is ready to do whatever it takes to

preserve the euro. And believe me, it will be enough." The utterance proved to be a turning point for Europe. The ECB followed up with a plan to purchase the government bonds of countries experiencing borrowing costs that were out of line with the ECB's efforts to steer interest rates in the eurozone. Market panic around Italy subsided. The program survived court challenges from opponents who said the ECB exceeded its powers. As the eurozone slowly recovered, Draghi and the bank's governing council backed other innovations to push up alarmingly weak inflation that threatened the eurozone with crippling deflation. Under Draghi, the bank used the unorthodox tool of negative interest rates, putting a minus 0.4% rate on deposits left at the central bank by commercial banks, a penalty to push them to lend. Lastly, the bank bought 2.6 trillion euros (\$2.9 trillion) in government and corporate bonds across the eurozone over almost four years, a move that pumps newly created money into the banks with the aim of supporting lending and a healthier level of inflation. Those tools remain for Draghi's successor. The program that halted the crisis in Italy was opposed, however, by Weidmann. He has argued that buying bonds takes the heat off governments to shape up, and that it could unfairly spread losses to other countries in case a country defaults on bonds held by the ECB. □

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# Israel holds large military drill amid US-Iran tensions

By ARON HELLER

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israel wrapped up its largest military drill in years on Wednesday, with thousands of troops from the army, navy and air force simulating a future war with the militant Lebanese Hezbollah group amid fears that Iran would draw its Shiite proxy into the recent growing tensions in the Persian Gulf.

The Israeli military said the four-day exercise had been planned long in advance and focused on the immersion of all branches against threats emanating from Israel's north. It included a large deployment of unmanned aircraft and the first use of the F-35 stealth fighter planes to prepare for scenarios of missile attacks and underground infiltrations from Lebanon.

But rising tensions between Iran and the United States clearly served as a backdrop.

Iran recently announced it was breaking its compliance with the nuclear deal



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convenes his Cabinet to inaugurate a new settlement named after President Donald Trump in a gesture of appreciation for the U.S. leader's recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, Sunday, June 16, 2019.

Associated Press

with world powers amid the renewal of crippling American sanctions. The Trump administration has ordered 1,000 more troops to the Middle East amid accusations that Iran was behind

a series of strikes against oil tankers near the Persian Gulf.

Israeli officials fear Iran may try to mobilize Hezbollah as its most potent toll against Israel in a confrontation.

Israel has long identified Iran as its greatest threat, citing its suspect nuclear program, development of long-range missiles and hostile rhetoric.

The Lebanese Shiite militant

group battled Israel to a stalemate in a month-long war in 2006 and has since gained valuable battle experience in the Syrian civil war. Over the past 13 years, Israel has carried out dozens of airstrikes against suspected weapons shipments from Iran through Syria to Lebanon and has engaged in several dust ups. But its field training has been primarily aimed toward delivering a far more decisive victory in its next full-scale war with Hezbollah.

Though the military would not mention it by name, Hezbollah was clearly the central focus of the drill.

"I am very impressed by the improvement in readiness, by the fighting spirit of the soldiers and commanders, and mainly by the destructive power," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said as he attended part of the drill. "I say to our enemies: The (military) has very great destructive power. Don't test us." □

# Database says 91,600 killed in Yemen fighting since 2015

**CAIRO (AP)** — Yemen's civil war has killed at least 91,600 people so far, a database tracking violence said Wednesday, presenting a new estimate after completing reporting for the first months of fighting in 2015.

The conflict began with the 2014 takeover over of northern and central Yemen by the Iranian-backed rebels, driving out the internationally recognized government from the capital, Sanaa.

Months later, in March 2015, a Saudi-led coalition launched its air campaign to prevent the rebels, known as Houthis, from overrunning the country's south.

In the relentless campaign, Saudi-led airstrikes have hit schools, hospitals and wedding parties and killed thousands of Yemeni civilians. The Houthis have used drones and missiles to attack Saudi Arabia and have targeted vessels in the Red Sea.



In this file photo, a boy with fake blood on his face and clothes to represent a victim, holds a poster with Arabic writing that reads, "Military targets" during a protest against Saudi-led airstrikes in Sanaa, Yemen.

Associated Press

Civilians have borne the brunt of the conflict, which has created what the United Nations says is the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project,

or ACLED, said that in 2015, about 17,100 people were reported killed — the second-most lethal year after 2018, which was the deadliest one on record.

ACLED said 11,900 people were killed this year, com-

pared to 30,800 in 2018.

The group said the Saudi-led coalition and its allies were responsible for more than 8,000 of about 11,700 deaths resulting from the direct targeting of civilians, while the Houthis and their

allies were responsible for the rest.

The group said it recorded over 18,400 killed in the southwestern province of Taiz since 2015, placing Taiz as the most violent province in Yemen, largely due to a four-year siege by the Houthis, the group said.

Hodeida and Jawf followed Taiz as the next most violent provinces in Yemen, with almost 10,000 in total combat fatalities, reported in each region since 2015, according to the group.

ACLED said the U.N.-brokered cease-fire for the Red Sea port city of in Hodeida contributed to a partial drop in reported fatalities in recent months. That cease-fire has since crumbled.

"These data are both a tool and a warning: the international community must use them to help understand, monitor, and ultimately resolve the conflict before the situation spirals even further out of control," said ACLED executive director Clionadh Raleigh. □



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# Xi supports North Korea's direction on issues ahead of visit

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Chinese President Xi Jinping praised North Korea for moving in the "right direction" by politically resolving issues on the Korean Peninsula in an essay published in both countries' official media Wednesday on the eve of Xi's visit to Pyongyang to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Xi had nothing to say on the biggest outside worry about North Korea — stalled nuclear weapons talks between Washington and Pyongyang — in the article published on the front page of North Korea's main newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, and by China's Xinhua news agency. But experts believe he could use his summit with Kim, which the North is calling a state visit, to endorse North Korean calls for an incremental disarmament process in which every action Pyongyang takes is met with U.S. concessions on sanctions and security issues.

Much of the article focused on lauding the neighbors' seven-decade relationship.



In this Jan. 8, 2019, file photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping attend a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Associated Press

Xi said his visit on Thursday and Friday will "strengthen strategic communication and exchange" between the traditional, though sometimes strained, allies. The nations fought together in the 1950-53 Korean War

against the United States, South Korea and their allies, but there has been friction in recent years, especially over the North's relentless push for nuclear bombs. Xi, who is locked in a bitter trade war with President

Donald Trump, will likely meet with the U.S. leader at the G-20 meetings in Japan. He may try to use his summit with Kim as leverage, by reminding Trump of Beijing's influence with Pyongyang, which could

either help or disrupt the U.S.-North Korea diplomacy, experts say.

Kim also wants to strengthen his own position against Trump and is obviously seeking to cement China, the North's only major ally and economic lifeline, as a major player in the process. "China supports how (North Korea) is maintaining the right direction to politically resolve the issues on the Korean Peninsula and supports efforts to find a solution (to serve North Korea's) rational interests through dialogue," Xi wrote on Rodong Sinmun.

Lee Sang-min, spokesman for Seoul's Unification Ministry, said the Rodong Sinmun op-ed wasn't the first a Chinese leader wrote in North Korean state media. The newspaper also published statements by former Chinese leaders Zhang Zemin and Hu Jintao when they visited the North in 2001 and 2005, respectively, the ministry said. Chinese state media has published essays from Xi ahead of his visits to other countries. □

# Parts of southern India facing acute water shortages

NEW DELHI (AP) — Millions of people are turning to water tank trucks in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu as house and hotel taps run dry because of an acute water shortage caused by drying lakes and depleted groundwater.

State Rural Development Minister S.P. Velumani said on Wednesday that the drought followed a 62% shortfall in monsoon rains last year compared to 2017.

People are lining up for water cans in the state capital of Chennai.

Some companies have

asked employees to work from home. Some restaurants are closing early and even considering not serving lunch if the water scarcity worsens.

Gauri Shankar, general manager of Hotel Deccan Plaza in Chennai, said two tank trucks bring water to the hotel every day from a town 60 kilometers (40 miles) away at a cost of 4,000 rupees (\$57) each. "Even a water tanker is proving difficult to get in the city. We are getting our supply because we entered into a contract with a supplier in September as

the water taps started going dry," Shankar said by phone.

Chennai is India's sixth-largest city with an estimated population of 10 million. It is a major destination for medical tourism, and Tamil Nadu state is a car manufacturing hub.

Top elected official K. Palaniswami said the state has diminishing groundwater supplies and has asked other states for spare water until October's monsoon rains.

Monsoons reach different parts of India at different times. □



An Indian boy arranges plastic vessels filled with drinking water on his scooter at a water distribution point, which are replenished by water tankers, in Chennai, capital of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, Wednesday, June 19, 2019.

Associated Press

# UN: Venezuelans now file 1 in 5 of all new asylum claims

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**  
**FRANKLIN BRICEÑO**  
Associated Press

**LIMA, Peru (AP)** — When Johan Álvarez was unable to provide more than one meal a day for his young family he knew it was time to leave Venezuela.

With his wife and infant son, the 25-year-old embarked on a lengthy journey by bus through three nations to reach Peru earlier this year. Now they are among a growing swell of Venezuelans asking to be recognized as refugees.

A United Nations report released Wednesday finds that Venezuelans represent the largest group worldwide filing new asylum claims. Those fleeing the troubled South American nation made more than one in five of all asylum requests in 2018, higher than the number of claims made by people escaping Afghanistan and Syria.

But Venezuela is not in the midst of war and many foreign governments are reluctant to recognize the migrants as refugees.

On a recent overcast day in Peru's capital, Álvarez filed into a line with about a hundred other Venezuelan arrivals filing for asylum, hoping his family's tale of hunger back home would be enough to earn them refugee status.

"It's not a war of arms," he said. "But it is a war of survival."

As Venezuela's crisis drags on, the number fleeing is rising by alarming numbers. The United Nations estimates there are now 4 million Venezuelans living abroad — a quarter of whom have fled since November. The Organization of American States estimates the number could reach 7.5 million by the end of 2020.

The widely used definition of refugee is someone who has fled his or her homeland because of persecution, war or violence. Asylum claimants typically have to show that they cannot return due to a well-founded fear of persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political



Venezuelan migrants wait at an immigration control point on the Ecuador-Peru border, before the end of a special visa program and tightened entry requirements that demand passports, in Tumbes, Peru, June 14, 2019.

Associated Press

opinion or membership in a particular group.

But a more encompassing definition in the 1984 Cartagena Declaration includes people fleeing hunger and poverty resulting from the breakdown of rule of law — conditions which a much wider group of Venezuelans are experiencing.

To date, more than 460,000 Venezuelans have sought asylum, including nearly 350,000 in 2018 alone, according to the U.N. A large number of those claims are being filed in Peru, where some 800,000 Venezuelans now reside.

Last year, Peru received 192,500 claims — an astoundingly high number that has created a backlog. Just over 1,000 Venezuelans have gotten their asylum requests approved. Worldwide, only about 21,000 Venezuelans have been recognized as refugees to date.

The U.N. report released Wednesday notes the Venezuela migration crisis has increasingly taken on the "characteristics of a refugee situation" and says it is clear that international protection considerations "are applicable to the majority of Venezuelans." Such protections could spare them from deportation.

"People fleeing Venezuela

are doing so in increasingly complex circumstances," said Federico Agusti, the U.N. refugee agency's representative in Peru. "It's not just a humanitarian crisis. The reason they had to leave is because their life was in danger."

David Smolansky, a Venezuela opposition leader who himself escaped in a journey through the jungle of Brazil, is now the coordinator of a migrant working group led by the Washington-based Organization of American States. He has been traveling throughout the Americas encouraging nations to apply the Cartagena Declaration, which was signed by several of the Latin American nations where Venezuelans are now arriving.

"If you give them refugee status, it will guarantee protection," he said. "I think it will create a commitment from the international community to cooperate more." Accepting a broader definition of who constitutes a refugee is particularly relevant in Colombia, where large numbers of Venezuelans have fled.

Despite taking in an estimated 1.3 million Venezuelans, neighboring Colombia has received just 2,729 asylum claims, according to U.N. data. Many mi-

grants are discouraged from applying because the process can take as long as two or three years. Others have been told only strict cases of political persecution or desertion will be acknowledged.

Gabriel Valles is one of those hoping his seemingly shoo-in case in Venezuela's neighboring country will be accepted.

The 32-year-old systems engineer and opposition activist spent more than two years in a Venezuelan high-security detention center run by the government's feared intelligence agency that is located five levels underground and known as "The Tomb."

There were no windows and the lights were almost always kept on, he recalled.

The only way he could tell if it might be day or night was by the hum of a metro line that ran nearby. If trains were passing by more frequently, he reasoned, it must be daytime.

"I always asked myself if the people who took the Caracas metro had any idea that below them exists a place where people are jailed," he said.

He was transferred to another jail before being released after nearly four years behind bars, and he

later applied for asylum in Colombia.

Valles currently has permission to work and live in the country for 90 days. Even though it can be repeatedly renewed, he said companies have been reluctant to hire him, not having any guarantee that he will have legal status for more than three months.

Many of his compatriots are in even more dire straits: Over a third of Venezuelans in Colombia have no legal status, which often forces them to take low-paying and even abusive jobs on the black market.

"Venezuelans in Colombia should be treated as refugees," he said. "For many reasons other than whether or not there is an armed conflict."

Several nations, including Colombia, continue to forcibly remove migrants despite the dangers they might face back home, while other countries are confronting a myriad of additional issues.

The United States has received some 81,800 asylum requests from Venezuelans and President Donald Trump recently said his administration is considering granting legal temporary protective status to thousands of Venezuelans who have fled.

But Niels Frenzen, a law professor and director of the University of South California's immigration clinic, said the TPS push faces an uphill battle because of the political conundrum it creates for Trump and his tough-on-immigration stance.

"You have these opposing political desires, at least in the current U.S. government," he said.

In Peru, the number of asylum applications is soaring partly because it has become easier to make requests. At the border, Venezuelans can submit their documents for refugee status, which is one of the only ways they can enter after the implementation of new requirements that made it impossible to cross without a passport. For Álvarez, applying for such status was his best option. □

## LOCAL



## The Global Covenant of Mayors: Launched in the Caribbean to support local governments with climate change threats

- Ten cities from the region signed up the adhesion to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago) during the Caribbean Urban Forum 2019.
- More than 9.000 cities around the world have already joined the Global Covenant of Mayors in 131 countries.

### PORT-OF-SPAIN/TRINIDAD TOBAGO

— The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) was launched in the Caribbean region in Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago), during the Caribbean Urban Forum (CUF 2019). The GCoM is an international coalition of city leaders committed to raising the global ambition for climate action. The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy in Latin America and the Caribbean (GCoM-LAC) aims to support the efforts of local governments in the region to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and make their communities more resilient toward the effects of climate change. The implementation of GCoM-LAC is supported by the International Urban Cooperation Program (IUC), funded by the European Union.

During the launch of the Global Covenant of Mayors in the Caribbean, framed within the celebration of CUF 2019, mayors of Trinidad represented by TTALGA as well as the mayors of Belmopan (Belize), Georgetown (Guyana), Portsmouth (Dominica) and May Pen (Jamaica) showed leadership in agreeing to take action on climate change by joining the GCoM. It means an increase in their level of commitment to the development of sustainability policies in their areas, with a focus on the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals at the local level. The Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica (ALGAJ) also signed a letter of intent to join the GCoM as Regional Coordinator, providing strategic guidance and support to local governments in the country. According to President of the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities (CALGA) and Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities (TTALGA), Anthony Roberts, "Climate change effects such as increased temperature and the increase in proliferation of adverse weather conditions has put Local



Government entities at the forefront of climate change. Hence, through means such as increased awareness, Local Government entities must advocate for climate change policy and promote the adherence to changes that will meaningfully reduce climate change devastation locally."

In light of these facts, Local Government Municipality heads in the island state Trinidad and Tobago have agreed in Principle to sign on to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate change and to support and participate in discussions at meeting that are held here in Port of Spain".

The Ambassador of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago, Aad Biesebroek stated: "We very much welcome the Mayors of Latin America and the Caribbean to this very important climate and energy efficiency initiative. Cities are an integral part of climate action and Mayors can contribute

to meaningful change. The EU believes that we need to work hand in hand with cities around the world to reach our common climate goals. We encourage mayors to keep leading the way and through the 'International Urban Cooperation Programme' (IUC) the EU will continue to provide support".

The Global Covenant of Mayors comes to the Caribbean at a particularly important time for the region, the most threatened on the planet by the effects of climate change and natural disasters, where 60% of its biodiversity is currently at risk. The Caribbean today faces the great challenge of having to deal with the impacts of severe climatic events and a changing climate despite having limited resources. Through the regional chapter, and as delivered by local and global city network partners, the Global Covenant of Mayors will offer technical support and training, and work with signatory



cities and sub-national authorities in the Caribbean to plan and implement climate initiatives more effectively. □

### About the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is the largest global coalition of cities and local governments voluntarily committed to actively combatting climate change and transitioning to a low-carbon and climate resilient economy. Led by UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Action, Michael R. Bloomberg, and European Commission Vice President, Maroš Šefčovič, in partnership with local, regional and global city networks, the Global Covenant has 9.000 city signatories across 6 continents and more than 120 countries, representing over 800 million people or nearly 10% of the global population. By 2030, Global Covenant cities and local governments could collectively reduce 1.3 billion tons of CO2 emissions per year from business-as-usual – equal to the emissions of 276 million cars taken off the road. Learn more at: [www.globalcovenantof-mayors.org](http://www.globalcovenantof-mayors.org)

### About the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy in Latin America and the Caribbean

GCoM LAC is the chapter for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Global Covenant of Mayors. The implementation of the regional chapter of the GCoM-LAC has the financial support of the European Union through the "International Urban Cooperation Programme (IUC)". For more information: <http://pactodealcaldes-la.eu/> (soon available also in English).

### About the International Urban Cooperation (IUC) programme

Funded by the European Union, the International Urban Cooperation (IUC) programme supports the achievement of bilateral policy objectives as well as major international agreements on urban development and climate change, such as the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement. For more information, please reach us at: [www.iuc.eu](http://www.iuc.eu).

## Sail, Snorkel and Save



**PALM BEACH** — You can learn tips to Snorkel with the Jolly Pirates experts and Save 20% with an On-line Reservation. Your first tip is to visit [www.jolly-pirates.com](http://www.jolly-pirates.com) and save 20% with an online reservation. Jolly Pirates Snorkeling cruises are the perfect way to appreciate Aruba's underwater environment, the island's pristine ocean and gain a sense of discovery. You can Snorkel over a WWII Shipwreck and lovely Reef areas close to the coastline to view colorful fish and underwater landscapes.

The key to enjoy a day of snorkeling is to be relaxed and comfortable. Always start with adjusting your mask. Simply hold your mask to your face and breathe in through your nose. Your mask fits perfectly, if it can stay in place

without holding it. Once you have the proper fit, you can adjust the strap to fit snug at the widest area of your head. Pulling your hair back, will keep the seal tight and water will not leak in. If you have a moustache you can try putting some lip balm or Vaseline below your nose.

Before you get in the ocean, try some simple, relaxed breathing through your snorkel. Once you're in the ocean you will feel there's enough pressure to seal the mask making it unnecessary to pull your strap overly tight.

As a rule, you should always put your fins on, when you're in the water. Once your feet are wet, your fins become easier to slide on. Small flutter kicks will propel you through as you glide comfortable in the water. You'll see a lot of cool



things underwater, this will help you focus. A relaxed snorkeler get more pleasure out of snorkeling.

The Jolly Pirates crew encourages all snorkelers, regardless of their swimming abilities to wear a flotation device. Aruba's clear waters afford snorkelers incredible visibility at shallow colorful reef areas and with a little practice, you can swim along the marine life and visit other colorful sites, close to Aruba's shoreline.

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## Honored Loyal Visitors

**PALM BEACH** — Recently, ATA representative Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates.

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## The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors at the Divi Phoenix Aruba

**EAGLE BEACH** — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were **Mr. Walter Boyer** and **Mrs. Jamie Lewis** residents of Henrico Virginia, who have been honored as Distinguished Visitors. They have been visiting the island for 10 consecutive years.

Also honored were **Mrs. Ilda Figueron** a resident of Argentina, who has been coming to the island for 30 consecutive years and has been honored as Goodwill Ambassador.

The honorees stated that there are so many reason why they love the island very much, especially for its safety, the year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. De Cuba together with the Assistant Manager, Pearl Lake, of the Divi Phoenix Aruba presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



## Today Is Going To Be A Good Day



Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the most welcoming people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

### Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the web-



site [www.arubanationalpark.org](http://www.arubanationalpark.org)

### Philip's Animal Garden

To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own

bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: [www.philipsanimalgarden.com](http://www.philipsanimalgarden.com).

### The Lighthouse

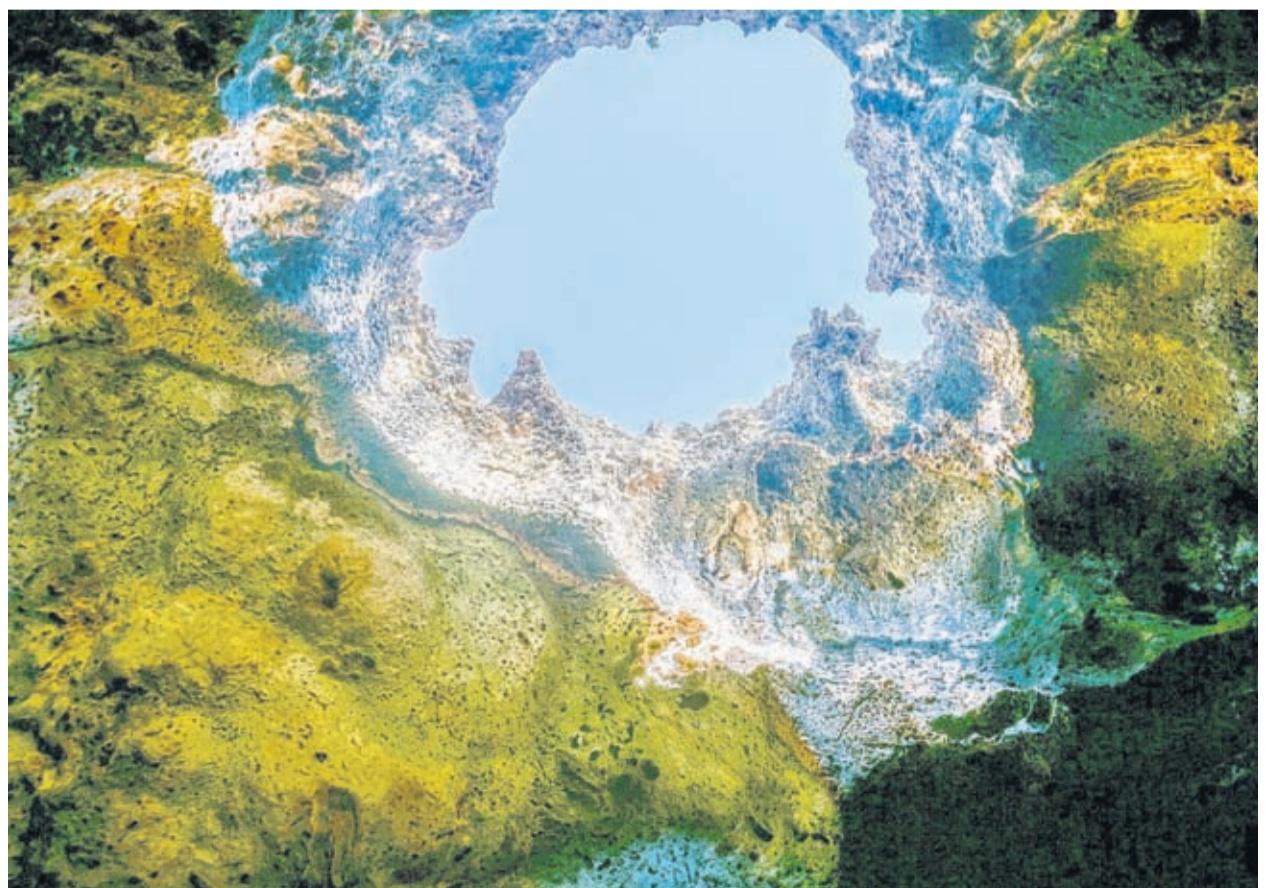
No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top.

You can even take a tour. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. [www.arubalighthouse.com](http://www.arubalighthouse.com) will give you more information.

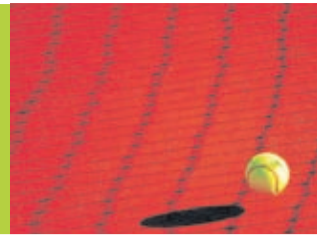
### Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef.

Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook. □



# SPORTS



In this Feb. 27, 2019, file photo, Memphis Grizzlies guard Mike Conley (11) shoots the ball in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Chicago Bulls, in Memphis, Tenn.  
Associated Press

## AP source: Grizzlies trade Conley to Jazz for 3 players

By **TERESA M. WALKER**  
AP Sports Writer

The Memphis Grizzlies traded away the final piece of the franchise's best years on Wednesday, sending veteran point guard Mike Conley to the Utah Jazz for a trio of players, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press.

The Grizzlies swapped Conley for forward Jae Crowder, guard/forward Kyle Korver and guard Grayson Allen, said the person, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because neither Memphis nor Utah has announced the trade, which cannot be completed until the new league year starts on July 6.

Conley confirmed the trade on Twitter, thanking Memphis for making him the man he is and being his home.

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# LIFE OF RILEY



## DeGrom, Alonso lead Mets to a 10-2 rout of 1st-place Braves

A ball hit for an RBI double by New York Mets' Michael Conforto gets past Atlanta Braves left fielder Austin Riley (27) during the third inning of a baseball game Tuesday, June 18, 2019, in Atlanta.

# Women ready to add to their history at Hazeltine

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

**CHASKA, Minn. (AP)** — The LPGA Tour gets its crack at Hazeltine National, the course with a recent history of surprising outcomes.

This is where Rich Beem, a former car stereo salesman, held off a charge by Tiger Woods in the 2002 PGA Championship. It's where Y.E. Yang became the only player to come from behind and beat Woods in the final round of a major at the 2009 PGA Championship.

It's where the Americans actually won a Ryder Cup in 2016.

Hazeltine also is an example of how much the second-oldest major in women's golf has risen in stature since the LPGA Tour and PGA of America became partners to stage what is now the KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

"The magnitude of this event has gone up so high, and it's neck and neck with the USGA and U.S. Open," said Danielle Kang, who won the Women's PGA two years ago at Olympia Fields, the course south of Chicago where Walter Hagen and Jim Furyk won majors. "It's just when you get here and people talk so much about the golf



In this June 2, 2019, file photo, Jeongeun Lee6, of South Korea, chips to the 16th green during the final round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament, in Charleston, S.C.

Associated Press

course. 'Oh, you're going to play Hazeltine.' They talk it up so much."

And now it's time to play it. The field is the strongest of the year for the LPGA, with 99 of the top 100 on the money list. Sung Hyun Park won last year at Kemper Lakes (where Payne Stewart won the PGA Championship in 1989). The PGA of America has set it up at 6,741 yards on the card — long by LPGA standards — with plans at least once this week to play the signature 16th hole — with a green

that extends into a lake — at 240 yards as a reachable par 4.

"I think it's actually harder as a drivable par 4 because you're putting the water into play a bit more on the right side," Nelly Korda said. "So I think that's going to be a really cool hole and see how people play that down the stretch on Sunday."

For the fifth straight year, KPMG staged a women's leadership summit designed to inspire young women in the corporate

world. Among the speakers this year was former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, soccer star Mia Hamm and executives from Target and Bank of America.

It sets up as a big week in a big year for the LPGA Tour, with the Solheim Cup scheduled for Scotland in September.

And being at Hazeltine makes it feel bigger.

"The name is obviously a big deal, I think more from a fan perspective and the attention of it that the guys have played here and

people are familiar with this golf course," Stacy Lewis said. "But it's a property ... you drive here and it feels big, from the clubhouse to the range to the practice areas. It feels like a major championship, and that's ultimately what we wanted to do."

When this LPGA Tour and PGA of America relationship began, the major was taken to Westchester, Sahalee, Olympia Fields and Kemper Lakes, all courses known to the golfing public from men's majors or big events. Next up is Aronimink and Congressional, two more storied courses that add to the cachet.

"I think like any major championship, it's going to test everything that you've got mentally and physically — shot making, everything — especially around here," said Brooke Henderson, whose victory last week in the LPGA Meijer Classic gave her a record nine LPGA titles by a Canadian. Lately, the LPGA majors have been more wide open regardless of where they're played. Ten women have won the last 10 majors dating to Kang's victory in the Women's PGA at Olympia Fields. Ko and Henderson are the only multiple winners this season. □

## Sister act: 1st WTA meeting of identical twins ends in upset

**BIRMINGHAM, England**

**(AP)** — The first meeting of identical twins in WTA Tour history ended with an upset as Kristyna Pliskova overcame a ranking gap of more than 100 places to beat Karolina at the grass-court Birmingham Classic on Wednesday.

Kristyna, ranked No. 112, won 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (7) against her No. 3-ranked sister from the Czech Republic.

It was their first match against each other in the main draw of a WTA event, and the 10th meeting of sisters on the tour.

Kristyna won their first-ever meeting, at the Malta ITF junior tournament as 14 year olds, and has edged ahead 6-5 in their head-to-

head record in competitive matches.

The match was decided by a third-set tiebreaker in which both of the 27-year-old sisters made untimely double faults.

Karolina fell behind 6-5 with a double fault, but Kristyna replied with one of her own to make it. At 7-7, Karolina once again double faulted to give Kristyna another match point and this time the left-handed player didn't waste it to wrap up the match in just under two hours.

Ashleigh Barty won her first match since capturing her first grand slam at the French Open, beating Donna Vekic 6-3, 6-4.

Barty said she does not feel



Kristyna Pliskova returns the ball to Karolina Pliskova during the grass-court Birmingham Classic tennis tournament, Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at the Edgbaston Priory Club in Birmingham, England.

Associated Press

any extra pressure with her new status.

"For me, nothing changes," the Australian said. "It was an incredible fortnight of

tennis that we had without a doubt and some of the best memories of my career will come from those two weeks. But I'm still the

same person. I'm still the same Ash Barty and I try and prepare the same way.

"I feel like, if anything, it's taken the pressure off. I can just go out and enjoy it." Barty could face Venus Williams in the quarterfinals, after the American marked her debut at the tournament with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

It is only the second time in 20 years that Williams has played a Wimbledon warm-up event.

Jelena Ostapenko won back-to-back matches for only the second time this season, knocking out home favorite Johanna Konta 6-3, 6-4. □

# Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

*Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: Hook and Cook your Own Fish!*



Oranjestad- Renaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby Junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant.

Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine

Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit [www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com](http://www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com) or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.



Have an authentic seafood dining experience at Driftwood Restaurant, situated in the characteristic downtown Oranjestad. This comfortable downtown restaurant has a long tradition (30 years) of serving the freshest fish, the biggest shrimp, and the most succulent Caribbean Lobster.

Opening Hours: 5:00pm to 10:30pm (closed on Sundays)

For reservations visit [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com) or call (297)-5832515

Address: Klipstraat 12. Oranjestad, Aruba

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"Time for another chapter! Excited to give all I have to The Jazz ...!" Conley tweeted.

ESPN.com first reported the deal, which it says also includes Utah's No. 23 pick overall in Thursday night's draft.

Conley was the final piece of the core that led the Grizzlies to seven consecutive playoff berths, including the 2013 Western Conference Finals. Zach Randolph and Tony Allen left in 2017 as free agents, and Memphis traded Marc Gasol to Toronto in February, splitting up a duo that had been the NBA's longest-tenured teammates. Gasol went on to help the Raptors win their first NBA title.

The move almost certainly means that Ricky Rubio will be elsewhere next season, even after he averaged 12.7 points and 6.1 assists for the Jazz this season. Pairing Conley with rising star Donovan Mitchell figures to give the Jazz one of the best backcourts in the league next season

and would seem to bolster Utah's chances in a rapidly changing Western Conference.

The move also could make Memphis a major player in free agency for 2020, although much of that space hinges on what the team does to fill out a roster this summer.

It's the second major trade in the West since the NBA Finals ended last week, the first being the move sending Anthony Davis from New Orleans to LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers. And the five-time defending Western Conference champion Golden State Warriors won't have Klay Thompson or Kevin Durant for much, if not all, of next season because of injuries — and it remains a possibility that both will sign elsewhere this summer as well.

The Grizzlies tried to trade Conley before the deadline but couldn't, with the guard's pricey contract complicating deals. Conley signed a max contract in July 2016 with \$67 million

more due over the next two seasons.

He leaves with a handful of franchise records, including most games played (788) over his 12 seasons in Memphis. Conley, who turns 32 on Oct. 11, played only 12 games in 2017-18 because of a painful left heel that needed season-ending surgery. But Conley returned this last season to play 70 games and scored a career-best 21.1 points per game. He was just off his career highs with 6.4 assists per game and averaged 1.3 steals per game.

Mike Miller, Conley's former teammate and now an assistant coach with the Memphis Tigers, wrote on Twitter that the FedExForum won't be the same without the Grizzlies' all-time leading scorer.

"Mike's 12 years in Memphis exceeded all expectations and has been full of countless memories for the city!!" Miller wrote.

The Grizzlies are busy rebuilding after drafting Jaren Jackson Jr. with the fourth overall pick last year, and



In this March 11, 2019, file photo, Utah Jazz forward Jae Crowder (99) directs his team in the second half during an NBA basketball game against the Oklahoma City Thunder, in Salt Lake City. Associated Press

they hold the No. 2 pick overall for Thursday night's draft, which is likely to be point guard Ja Morant of Murray State as Conley's replacement. Memphis hired its new coach, Taylor Jenkins, last week with what management called a "significant" and "long-term commitment." □



# Jason deGrom, Alonso lead Mets past East-leading Braves 10-2

By The Associated Press

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Jacob deGrom took a shutout into the ninth inning, Pete Alonso homered to highlight the first four-hit game of his young career, and the New York Mets routed the first-place Atlanta Braves 10-2 on Tuesday night.

Bouncing back from an ugly 12-3 loss in the series opener, the Mets pounded Braves starter Julio Teheran for six runs over four innings and cruised to a victory that eased some of the tension from a disappointing season.

DeGrom (4-6) dominated, allowing just five hits, struck out 10 and helped himself at the plate, leading off the sixth with a double and coming around to score.

Freddie Freeman and Josh Donaldson hit back-to-back homers off deGrom in the ninth, ending a bid for the second shutout and fourth complete game of his career. Robert Gsellman came on for the beleaguered Mets bullpen to strike out the final two Atlanta hitters.

Michael Conforto added a long homer in the eighth, and Jeff McNeil went deep in the ninth to finish off the 15-hit barrage.

Conforto and Todd Frazier both had two RBIs. McNeil added three hits, and every Mets starter had at least one.

Teheran (5-5) lost for the first time since April 30.

## **REDS 4, ASTROS 3**

**CINCINNATI (AP)** — Jesse Winker and Derek Dietrich homered off Justin Verlander in the first inning and Cincinnati beat Houston to clinch its first series win in nearly a month.

The Reds won a series for the first time since May 24-26, when they took two of three from the Cubs. The Astros hadn't dropped a series since April 29-May 2. Winker connected on the fourth pitch from Verlander (9-3). Joey Votto doubled and Dietrich's first homer since May 28 made it 3-0. Kyle Farmer added a homer in the seventh off.

Verlander went seven innings and struck out eight.



New York Mets starting pitcher Jacob deGrom (48) delivers in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves Tuesday, June 18, 2019, in Atlanta. New York won 10-2.

Associated Press

Anthony DeSclafani (4-3) pitched into the sixth inning and gave up six hits. Michael Lorenzen retired the side in order in the ninth for his second straight save and fourth overall.

## **TIGERS 5, PIRATES 4**

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Nicholas Castellanos trotted home when a potential double play in the eighth turned into an RBI fielder's choice due to some indecisiveness by Pittsburgh second baseman Adam Frazier.

The Tigers loaded the bases off Kyle Crick (2-3) with one out when Brandon Dixon hit a grounder that rolled under Crick's glove right to Frazier. Instead of flipping to shortstop Kevin Newman in hopes of turning an inning-ending double play, Frazier tried to tag Detroit's Christin Stewart between first and second. Stewart backed off to avoid the tag, breaking up the play and forcing for Frazier to settle for one out instead of two.

Buck Farmer (4-4) earned the win. Shane Greene earned his American League-leading 21st save. Miguel Cabrera had two hits as Detroit beat the Pirates for just the second time in their last 10 meet-

ings.

Bell hit his 20th home run for Pittsburgh. Jung Ho Kang hit an RBI triple — his first three-base hit since 2015 — and Colin Moran added to Pittsburgh's major-league leading pinch-hit total on an RBI single in the seventh.

## **WHITE SOX 3, CUBS 1**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Eloy Jiménez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the ninth inning in his first game against his first major league organization, helping the White Sox beat the Cubs.

James McCann hit a lead-off single before Jiménez drove a 1-0 pitch from Pedro Strop (1-3) over the wall in left for his 12th homer.

Evan Marshall (3-0) got two outs for the win and Alex Colomé worked the ninth for his 15th save in 15 chances. Four White Sox relievers combined for four scoreless innings after Iván Nova turned in one of his best starts of the season.

The slumping Cubs kicked off a 10-game home-stand with their fourth loss in their last five games. Kyle Schwarber connected for his 16th homer and Cole Hamels pitched seven sparkling innings, becoming the 10th left-hander with 2,500

career strikeouts.

## **MARLINS 6, CARDINALS 0**

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Rookie Jordan Yamamoto matched his first career start by pitching seven scoreless innings against St. Louis, and Miami earned the shutout.

Yamamoto (2-0) allowed two hits, struck out seven and walked two. He became the first pitcher since Pittsburgh's Nick Maddox in 1907 to beat the Cardinals twice in a seven-day span when the first game was his debut. Relievers Tayron Guerrero and Sergio Romo completed the two-hitter. Brian Anderson and Starlin Castro homered for the Marlins.

Jack Flaherty (4-4) pitched seven innings, allowing three runs on four hits while striking out eight, and had St. Louis' first hit off Yamamoto.

## **ROCKIES 8, DIAMONDBACKS 1**

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Nolan Arenado homered and drove in three, Antonio Senzatela pitched one-run ball into the seventh inning and Colorado beat Arizona.

Charlie Blackmon had three hits, and the Rockies (39-35) took over second place in the NL West, a game up on the Dia-

mondbacks, with their sixth straight win against Arizona.

Senzatela (6-5) equaled his longest outing of the season with 6 2/3 innings, allowing seven hits with five strikeouts and four walks.

The Rockies took a 2-0 lead on Arenado's high drive into the left field seats off Arizona's Merrill Kelly (7-7) with two out in the first. It scored Blackmon, who led off the game with a double down the right field line.

Blackmon has reached base in 28 consecutive games, the longest active streak in the National League.

## **PADRES 4, BREWERS 1**

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Left-hander Logan Allen threw seven scoreless innings in his major league debut, Francisco Mejia hit a two-run home run and Manny Machado added an RBI double for San Diego over Milwaukee.

The 22-year-old Allen (1-0) was backed by three double plays as well as another dazzling play by rookie shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. Allen held Milwaukee to three hits while striking out five and walking two.

Brandon Woodruff (8-2) allowed four runs and seven hits in six innings, struck out six and walked one.

## **DODGERS 9, GIANTS 0**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Clayton Kershaw combined with two relievers on a four-hit shutout, Enríque Hernández had a pinch-hit grand slam to highlight a six-run seventh, and Los Angeles routed San Francisco.

Kershaw (7-1) allowed three hits, struck out six and walked two. The left-handed ace improved to 23-11 in his career against the Giants, who suffered their largest loss of the season.

Dylan Floro struck out three in the eighth. Joe Kelly finished it off in the ninth, giving up a hit and a walk to go with one strikeout.

Rookie Shaun Anderson (2-2) gave up three runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings. The right-hander struck out two and walked three.

Joc Pederson hit his 19th homer leading off the game. □

# Kepler's hit in 17th gives Twins 4-3 win over Red Sox

**By The Associated Press**  
**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Max Kepler's single with one out in the 17th inning gave Minnesota a victory over Boston in the longest game by innings in Target Field history. Kepler hit a tying homer in the 13th before his hit down the first-base line past a five-man Red Sox infield scored Luis Arraez to end a game that took 5 hours, 45 minutes and ended at 12:55 a.m.

The winning hit came off reliever Brian Johnson (1-1), who pitched the 17th inning for the Red Sox, who had their six-game winning streak snapped.

Boston had a runner on third and nobody out in the 17th but couldn't score against Zack Littell (1-0), who earned his first career win.

The teams traded solo homers in the 13th inning. Mookie Betts put Boston up 3-2 before Kepler launched his 18th homer to keep the game going.

## YANKEES 6, RAYS 3

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Cameron Maybin homered again with his roster spot in doubt, Edwin Encarnación went deep for his first hit

with the Yankees and New York beat Tampa Bay to extend its AL East lead to 2 ½ games. New York won its fourth straight and has taken 9 of 12 against the second-place Rays dating to last season.

Gary Sanchez had two RBIs and J.A. Happ (7-3) pitched two-run ball over five innings. Giancarlo Stanton returned from the injured list to play right field and reached into the seats in foul territory for a key out in the second.

The Rays lost back-to-back road games for just the second time this season.

Stanton was 0 for 4 with two strikeouts in his first big league action since March 31.

## ATHLETICS 16, ORIOLES 2

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)** — Khris Davis, Robbie Grossman and Stephen Piscotty homered in a 10-run sixth inning, and Oakland hit six home runs overall in a rout of Baltimore.

Ramón Laureano, Chad Pinder and Beau Taylor also homered as the A's set a season-high for home runs. It's the first time that Oakland has had six home runs in a game since June 17, 2008.



Minnesota Twins' Max Kepler runs toward home after hitting a solo home run against the Boston Red Sox during the 13th inning of a baseball game, late Tuesday, June 18, 2019, in Minneapolis. Associated Press

Brett Anderson (7-4) allowed one earned run and four hits in seven innings in beating the Orioles for the second time this season.

Laureano finished with four hits and made a terrific running catch before crashing into the center field wall. Matt Olson added two hits and scored twice.

Oakland hadn't scored 10 or more runs in an inning at the Coliseum since July 5, 1996.

Three of Oakland's home runs came off Baltimore starter Gabriel Ynoa (0-4). Ynoa allowed seven hits and a career-high six runs in 5 1/3 innings.

## ANGELS 3, BLUE JAYS 1

**TORONTO (AP)** — Tyler

Skaggs pitched into the eighth inning, Kole Calhoun and Brian Goodwin hit solo homers and Los Angeles remained unbeaten in five games against Toronto this season.

Skaggs (6-6) went a season-best 7 1/3 innings. He allowed a run and three hits, walked none and struck out six. Ty Buttrey got two outs in the eighth, and Hansel Robles finished for his 11th save in 13 opportunities.

Luis Rengifo had two hits for the Angels, who have won 17 of 23 games in Toronto. Lourdes Gurriel Jr. homered for the Blue Jays, who have lost a season-worst six straight at home.

Both homers came off right-hander Marcus Stroman (4-9), who allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings. Stroman has lost three of his past four decisions.

## INDIANS 10, RANGERS 3

**ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)** — Rookie Zach Plesac allowed only two hits pitching into the eighth inning and Cleveland had four home runs, including three in a row for the first time in nearly 15 years, to overwhelm Texas. After Jake Bauers led off the Indians' seventh with a 389-foot shot to right-center, Roberto Perez and Tyler Naquin followed with homers that measured more than 400 feet. □

# Lawsuit alleges Carrie Underwood copied 'Game On' NFL intro

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A songwriting team sued country singer Carrie Underwood, the NFL and NBC Wednesday, saying they stole a song and "slightly modified" it to introduce "Sunday Night Football" to viewers last season.

The lawsuit in Manhattan federal court noted that Underwood's "Game On" even carried the same title as the song singer Heidi Merrill of Newport Beach, California, put on an internet music video two years ago.

The lawsuit sought unspecified damages, saying the copyright was violated on the song that had been

pitched to Underwood's representatives in 2017.

The NFL and NBCUniversal Media LLC declined comment. Carrie Underwood's representatives did not immediately comment.

The plaintiffs are a songwriting team consisting of four individuals, including Merrill, from California, Tennessee and Sweden.

The lawsuit said Merrill assembled the group to create the song in 2016 as a follow to her Nebraska-themed football anthem "Cornhusker Strong."

It said they marketed the song, aiming to get it licensed for use in television broadcasts of sporting

events.

Merrill pitched the song to Underwood's producer in August 2017 during a conference in Nashville, Tennessee, where Underwood lives, the lawsuit said.

It said the producer referred Merrill to his assistant, who told her in an email in October 2017: "I'm sorry, we're going to have to pass."

The lawsuit claimed that the song that introduced 17 NFL Sunday night games through the season beginning in September 2018 "is substantially — even strikingly — similar, if not identical," to the song Underwood's team had rejected. □



In this June 6, 2019 file photo, Carrie Underwood arrives at the CMT Music Awards at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. Associated Press



Tour de France director Christian Prudhomme answers the Associated Press in Paris, Wednesday, June 19, 2019.

Associated Press

## Tour director tells AP race won't be same without Froome

By JOHN LEICESTER  
AP Sports Writer

**PARIS (AP)** — The Tour de France just won't be the same without four-time champion Chris Froome in the field, race director Christian Prudhomme told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Froome was injured last week in a crash in France that left him with multiple fractures. He let go of his handlebars to blow his nose and hit a wall at speed.

"Clearly, it changes things," Prudhomme said. "The Tour de France with Chris Froome and without is not the same thing. He has been the central character since, we'll say, 2013.

"So other scenarios are going to open up."

Defending champion Geraint Thomas was also hurt in a crash this week at the Tour de Suisse. The 33-year-old Welshman required stitches above his eye but he is still expecting to defend his title.

"Luckily I'm all ok," Thomas wrote on Twitter on Wednesday. "It just means I'll need some big training rides next week now."

The setback cast further uncertainty over Team INEOS, formerly known as Team Sky, which has won six of the last seven Tours. Bradley Wiggins won in 2012, while Froome took the title 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017, and Thomas last year.

But with Froome out and Thomas recovering, that

could open the door for 22-year-old teammate Egan Bernal.

"Of course, Dave Brailsford's team will weigh on the Tour de France, as in previous years. But will it do so to such an extent and in the same way?" Prudhomme asked. "I imagine that he, Dave Brailsford, is asking himself lots of questions, too.

"Who will be the leader? The evidence, logic, dictates it will be Geraint Thomas, of course," Prudhomme said. "But will that still be the case after his crash? There are lots of question marks. But we know that Egan Bernal is ready, it seems to me."

After an impressive win at the Paris-Nice race in March, the Colombian then also crashed in training in May. He broke his collarbone, ruling him out of the Giro d'Italia. But he is racing at the Tour de Suisse and Prudhomme expects that the mountainous terrain of the Tour will play to Bernal's climbing strengths. This year's Tour will be the first with three stages that finish on summits above 2,000 meters (6,500 feet), where the thin air will sap riders. "We're going very high this year," Prudhomme said. "But nearly all of us believe that the Colombians won't be less strong at 2,000 meters and Bernal, obviously, is Colombian.

"At first glance, on paper, it cannot be unfavorable for Bernal," he added. □

## Boxing body near bankrupt, facing 2020 Olympic exclusion



The new headquarters building of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), in Lausanne, Switzerland, Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

Associated Press

By GRAHAM DUNBAR  
AP Sports Writer

**LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)** — The International Boxing Association is near bankruptcy, days before a decision to formally exclude the body from the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

AIBA executive director Tom Virgets told board members it will be insolvent if International Olympic Committee members derecognize the troubled body next Wednesday.

The full IOC membership is expected to sign off on recommendations made last month by its executive board, which would deny AIBA its expected \$17.5 million share of Tokyo Games commercial revenue and cut off the men's and women's 2019 world championships in Russia as qualifying paths.

"In my opinion, the decisions made by the IOC were clearly designed to bankrupt AIBA," Virgets wrote in a letter seen by The Associated Press. "Every source of income that AIBA had going forward was taken away."

The IOC board, chaired by President Thomas Bach, discussed the Tokyo boxing tournaments again

Wednesday. However, there were no detailed talks about AIBA's financial and staffing issues, IOC sports director Kit McConnell said.

AIBA has less than \$400,000 in the bank and cannot afford to challenge any IOC ruling at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Virgets wrote to senior officials.

The boxing body is also releasing all but three staff from its Lausanne offices, close to the IOC's new lakeside headquarters which opened this month and cost around 145 million Swiss francs (\$145 million).

Virgets said he also is leaving, explaining "It is the correct thing to do" because he failed in his mandate to keep AIBA involved in the Tokyo Olympics.

AIBA plans to hold an executive committee meeting one day after its Olympic fate is likely sealed.

The IOC board wants AIBA excluded after appointing an inquiry panel to investigate its finances, governance, and the integrity of judging and refereeing in Olympic bouts, including at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

A key factor against AIBA was its members having

elected Gafur Rakhimov as president last year while on a U.S. sanctions list with suspected links to organized crime. He denies wrongdoing.

The IOC detailed its plans Wednesday for a fresh qualification program next year to send male and female boxers to 13 medal events in Tokyo.

The eight men's weight classes are a reduction of two from Rio, with two women's classes added to make five.

Four regional qualification tournaments are planned between January and April — in the Americas, Africa, a combined Asia-Oceania region, and Europe — with a final global qualifier, likely in May, McConnell said. Past and future Olympic host cities should host the qualifiers.

After the previous AIBA president, long-time IOC member C.K. Wu, sought to put professional boxers into the Olympic tournaments, that is not a priority for Tokyo.

McConnell said national Olympic teams could choose to enter pro boxers, who would have to go through the full qualifying program. □

# Press isn't dwelling on past miss against Sweden

LE HAVRE, France (AP) — A devastating missed penalty kick by Christen Press in a loss at the Olympics could have been the lowest point of her career. Instead, it was a motivator and defining moment for the American forward.

"I think when I look back on my career, all the moments that I'm most proud of have come after failure," she said. "That's the easiest one to point at and look at, and look at that clear failure, and then evaluate how I did in responding to it."

"I think the strength that it takes to step back up and be courageous and let it go, and to continue to fight for your dreams and not let the outside noise affect what you're doing, I am very proud of that."

The missed final penalty kick during a shootout against Sweden in the quarterfinals at the 2016 Rio Olympics helped eliminate the United States and a tearful Press was consoled by her teammates. It was the earliest Olympic exit for the Americans.

As the United States prepared to face Sweden on Thursday at the Women's World Cup, Press said she's only watched pieces of that match. The Swedes — led then by former U.S. coach Pia Sundhage — bunkered in on defense against the Americans.

Tied after three rounds in the shootout, Sweden captain Caroline Seger got past U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo before Press sailed the Americans' fifth penalty kick over the crossbar. Lisa Dahlkvist wrong-footed Solo to give Sweden the 4-3 shootout victory.

Solo infamously called the Swedes "a bunch of cowards" after in alleging they played a defensive match to choke the Americans' chances.

The rematch between the two teams is a highlight of four Thursday games in France, but the United States is not interested in dwelling on that defeat as it attempts to win a second consecutive Cup.

"I think players and coaches are not focused on what



United States' Christen Press catches the ball during the Women's World Cup Group F soccer match between United States and Chile at Parc des Princes in Paris, France, Sunday, June 16, 2019.

Associated Press

was, we're focused on what will be," coach Jill Ellis said. "That's really where you have to be. You've got to look forward. That's the past."

Press played for clubs in Sweden for two years from

2012-14 and again in 2018 between stints in the National Women's Soccer League. She came off the bench in the 13-0 rout of Thailand in the opener, but Press got the start as part of seven lineup changes for

the 3-0 victory over Chile on Sunday.

The United States has played Sweden six times in the group stage at the World Cup, including a 0-0 draw four years ago in Canada. □

## NASCAR denies Chastain appeal of disqualification at Iowa

By LUKE MEREDITH

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — NASCAR denied Ross Chastain's appeal Wednesday after his race-winning truck was disqualified following a postrace inspection at Iowa Speedway over the weekend.

National Motorsports Appeals Panelist Bryan Moss heard Chastain's appeal and chose to uphold the original penalties assessed by NASCAR for the No. 44 being too low. Niece Motorsports owner Al Niece had said the truck passed opening and pre-race inspections and may have suffered minor damage during the race that left it too low.

Chastain's disqualification was the first under strict new rules put in place this season to deter cheating and it was the first time this year a winning car had

been DQ'd on race day.

"Although our team disagrees with the decision, we have exhausted our options for recourse and must move on," Niece said in a statement. "Our sight will remain set on the obstacle in front of us — which is making the playoffs."

NASCAR said the last time it disqualified an apparent race winner was April 17, 1960, when Emanuel Zervakis' victory at Wilson Speedway in North Carolina was thrown out because of an oversized fuel tank. The series also stripped Mike Skinner of a victory the day after a 1999 race at Atlanta Motor Speedway for an unapproved cylinder head, but that decision was overturned on appeal.

Chastain's misfortune gave the victory to Brett Moffitt and Chastain will be scored as if he finished last

in addition to his victory and bonus points being stripped away. Chastain, who led the final 141 laps, also lost the \$50,000 he had won for taking first in the "Triple Truck Challenge" marketing promotion that included the Iowa race.

"I'm not backing down from the fact that we beat everybody," Chastain said in a Sirius radio interview Monday.

The loss could be devastating to Chastain's playoff hopes.

Chastain recently decided to switch his championship pursuit this season from the Xfinity Series to trucks, but he was not allowed to count a trucks win at Kansas because he was not racing for the series title at the time. Drivers who have won races only need to finish 20th or better in the regular season to make



Ross Chastain walks to his truck before the start of the NASCAR Truck Series auto race, Sunday, June 16, 2019, at Iowa Speedway in Newton, Iowa.

Associated Press

the postseason, but Chastain now has a long way to climb.

NASCAR announced in February that thorough post-race inspections would take place at the track instead of midweek at the sanctioning body's research and development center outside of Charlotte, North Carolina. Winning teams found in violation of the rules in previous seasons were penalized with post-race fines,

point deductions and/or suspensions. But drivers didn't have victories taken away from them until Chastain was stripped of the victory.

Chastain said in the radio interview he let NASCAR's decision Sunday bother him for "about an hour" before he shifted his focus to this weekend's races at Sonoma Raceway.

"It's actually very simple," Chastain said Wednesday. "Sunday is in the past." □

# Facebook's currency Libra faces financial, privacy pushback

By **RACHEL LERMAN**

AP Technology Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** —

Facebook is getting a taste of the regulatory pushback it will face as it creates a new digital currency with corporate partners.

Just hours after the social media giant unveiled early plans for the Libra cryptocurrency, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire insisted that only governments can issue sovereign currencies. He said Facebook must ensure that Libra won't hurt consumers or be used for illegal activities.

"We will demand guarantees that such transactions cannot be diverted, for example for financing terrorism," he said on Europe-1 radio.

Facebook unveiled its much-rumored currency Tuesday and said it will launch publicly early next year with such partners as Uber, Visa, Mastercard and PayPal.

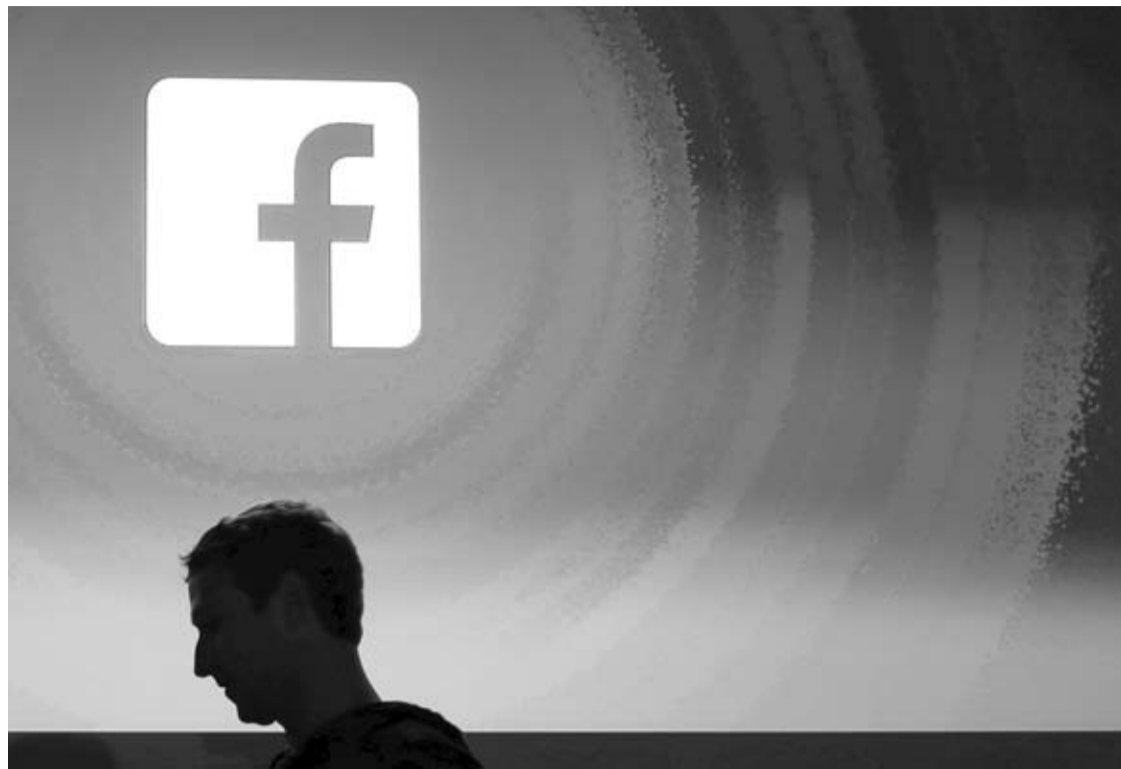
Libra could open online purchasing to millions of people who do not have access to bank accounts and could reduce the cost of sending money across borders. It's easy to see how attractive an alternative like Libra could be to people in countries beset with hyperinflation such as Venezuela.

But Facebook already faces scrutiny over its poor record on privacy and its dominance in social media, messaging and related businesses.

Libra poses new questions for the social network: Given that cryptocurrency is lightly regulated now, if at all, how will financial regulators oversee Facebook's plan? And just how much more personal data will this give the social media giant, anyway?

## A 'RUDE AWAKENING' OVER REGULATION?

The financial industry is more heavily regulated than internet companies — especially in the U.S., where tech companies have often been given free rein. Companies creating Libra are in for a "rude awakening" if they expect the



In this April 4, 2013, file photo, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg walks at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif.

same model of light regulation, said Karen Shaw Petrou, managing partner of Federal Financial Analytics in Washington.

She expects Libra will fall under U.S. regulations adopted in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. Which agency will oversee the venture will depend on what the currency system does, she said.

France's Le Maire said he asked central bank chiefs from the G-7 countries to produce a report by mid-July laying out "guarantees that we must set ... to assure us that there are no risks of illicit financing or for the consumer."

In the U.S., the head of the House Financial Services Committee wants Facebook to suspend plans for a new currency until Congress and regulators are able to study it more closely.

In asking Facebook to put the Libra currency plans on hold, Rep. Maxine Waters, a California Democrat, said Facebook "is continuing its unchecked expansion and extending its reach into the lives of its users."

The senior Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee said Facebook's new digital currency will give the tech giant unfair competitive advantages in collecting data on financial

transactions as well as control over fees.

"Facebook is already too big and too powerful," said Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio. Brown and Waters both called on financial regulators to examine the new currency project closely. In a statement, Facebook said, "We look forward to responding to lawmakers' questions as this process moves forward."

One hurdle Facebook and its partners will face is the potential for criminals to use it for money laundering and fraud, given the pseudo-anonymous nature of Libra and other digital currencies.

Facebook said it will comply with all existing financial regulations, though it has not offered many details. The company said its wallet app for using Libra will walk people through a verification process to ensure they are who they say they are. Still, Facebook is sure to face an onslaught of liability concerns when it comes to anti-money laundering and identity verification, said Nicholas Weaver, a senior researcher at the International Computer Science Institute at the University of California, Berkeley. "I am shocked they have decided to go ahead," he said.

## PRIVACY PUSHBACK?

Facebook has been dogged with questions about users' personal data, especially since the Cambridge Analytica scandal hit last year.

That appears to be part of the reason Facebook created a nonprofit oversight association to govern Libra. It also created a subsidiary, Calibra, to work on the technology, separately from its main social media business.

"We've heard loud and clear that you don't want social and financial data commingled," Calibra head David Marcus wrote on Twitter, addressing Facebook users.

"We understand we will have to earn your trust."

In some ways, privacy is the enemy in the battle against money laundering and other crimes, Weaver said. You want to know who is making transactions to keep them secure and legal, he said.

Facebook is "going to get access to a lot of financial data," Forrester analyst Aurelie L'Hostis said. "What are they going to do with that information and what are they going to put in place to safeguard that information?"

Cryptocurrencies such as Libra store all transactions on a widely distributed,

encrypted ledger known as the blockchain. Libra is designed so transaction amounts are visible, but transaction participants can be anonymous — at least until they move money into real-world accounts.

Facebook said people can keep their individual transactions from appearing on the blockchain by using Calibra's wallet app, though in that case, Calibra itself would have people's data.

Calibra said it won't use financial data to target ads on Facebook. It also said it won't share financial data with Facebook, though there are exceptions that haven't been fully spelled out, including situations where data sharing would "keep people safe."

## ANTITRUST RED FLAGS?

Congress has launched an inquiry into whether Big Tech giants such as Facebook and Google have gotten too big. Regulatory bodies including the Federal Trade Commission and Justice Department are said to be considering investigations.

Adding another major business will make Facebook bigger — if Libra takes off as intended — but it may not raise major antitrust red flags, said New York University law professor Eleanor Fox.

"It is a grass-roots entry into a new field and can actually reflect an increase in innovation," she said.

Still, she said, people could be alarmed because of Facebook's use of data in the past. And Justice Department officials have hinted they may take a broader view of harm to competition to go well beyond whether a company's dominance leads to higher prices.

Sarah Miller, deputy director of Open Markets Institute, which advocates against monopolies, said it was "insanity" to trust Facebook to launch a global cryptocurrency when it is already facing regulatory scrutiny around the world over data privacy. □

# Millennial Money: 5 money tactics for military deployments

By COURTNEY JESPERSEN  
NerdWallet  
Associated Press

While serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, Erik Goodge was severely wounded during a deployment to Afghanistan. After returning home, the veteran became passionate about finances as he navigated his post-military life and benefits.

At the time of his service, however, he didn't know nearly as much about personal finance. And he ventures many young deployers don't know their financial options, either.

"It's not a priority on the radar of a lot of service members," Goodge says.

Here are five important money lessons all deployers — and their dependents — should know, as told by financial advisors and veterans.

## 1. PLAN BEFORE YOU LEAVE

While overseas or in a combat zone, service members don't have much time to focus on finances, says Jim Ludwick, certified financial planner and founder of MainStreet Financial Planning Inc.

"Money really should take a backseat at that point, and so the pre-deployment



In this Dec 21, 2018 file photo, audience members join the Georgia National Guard's 48th Brigade Combat Team to salute the colors during the Casing of Color and Departure Ceremony for their deployment to Afghanistan from Fort Stewart in Hinesville, Ga.

Associated Press

preparation, whether the military person is single or married, is really important," Ludwick says.

Ludwick, who retired from the Air Force, says arrangements should be made beforehand. Consider giving someone power of attorney over your finances. Automate payments such as your car insurance or mortgage before you leave and ask that person to monitor them so you don't

fall behind.

## 2. MAXIMIZE SAVINGS

Deployments usually equate to more income, according to Goodge, who is president of uVest Advisory Group LLC in Indiana.

"Sometimes, depending on where the deployment is, there's extra incentive pay that comes along with that deployment," Goodge says. "There's family separation pay. There could be

hardship duty pay, hazardous duty pay, imminent danger pay. And that stuff generally is tax-free if it's overseas."

To maximize this extra income, take advantage of savings options, such as the Department of Defense Savings Deposit Program, Goodge recommends.

Members of the uniformed services who are serving in eligible combat zones can deposit a total of \$10,000

during each deployment and earn up to 10% interest annually. Interest continues to accrue for 90 days once you've returned. Military finance offices can help set up such accounts.

Another way to save money? Don't let increased income cause increased spending.

"An easy rule of thumb that I've always told people is really try to keep your expenses to your pre-deployment levels," Goodge says. You may be able to decrease your monthly spending, according to Ashley Dixon, CFP, associate planner at Gen Y Planning. If you have a spouse or children, your family will likely spend less on necessities like food while you're away, so put that money toward paying down debts more aggressively, she suggests.

## 3. MANAGE EXPECTATIONS

Deployments will bring new costs. Get on the same page with your spouse and dependents about everything from care packages to international cellphone usage, advises Lacey Langford, an accredited financial counselor and Air Force veteran. Ask questions so you don't overbuy. □

# Stock trading is muted as investors wait for Fed statement

By DAMIAN J. TROISE

**NEW YORK (AP)** — U.S. stocks moved sideways in early trading Wednesday on Wall Street ahead of a highly anticipated Federal Reserve statement on interest rates.

The muted trading follows two days of gains that are driving a June rebound in stocks after a dismal sell-off in May. The broad S&P 500 index is within striking range of its all-time high, set on April 30.

Financial companies, including banks, led the early gainers as bond yields rose. The higher yields allow banks to charge higher interest rates on loans. Wells Fargo rose 1.2% and U.S. Bancorp rose 1%.

Drug developer Allergan rose 3.5% and helped push gains for health care stocks.

Cardinal Health rose 1.4%. Software maker Adobe rose 3.3% on solid profit results and did most of the heavy lifting for technology companies, though the sector was wobbling overall between small gains and losses. Hewlett Packard rose 1.1%.

Communications stocks and companies that rely on consumer spending led the laggards. Facebook fell 1.5% as it faces Congressional criticism over its cryptocurrency plans. Nike fell 1% and Sysco fell 1.8%.

Stocks opened the week higher and rallied on Tuesday after President Donald Trump said he plans to meet with China's president at the end of the month to discuss their ongoing trade war. The announcement injected some hope into a

market that has been volatile because of concerns over the lingering trade dispute and its potential impact on economic growth. The market has rallied in the past and then dipped again because of seemingly good news on trade talks that did not result in any concrete progress.

**KEEPING SCORE:** The S&P 500 index rose 0.1% as of 10:05 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 57 points, or 0.2%, to 26,518. The Nasdaq composite was unchanged.

**FED FOCUS:** Investors are waiting for a highly anticipated statement from the Federal Reserve this afternoon that could help give more direction on the future of interest rates. The central bank isn't expected to cut rates today,



In this June 11, 2019, file photo trader Timothy Nick, left, and specialist Dilip Patel work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

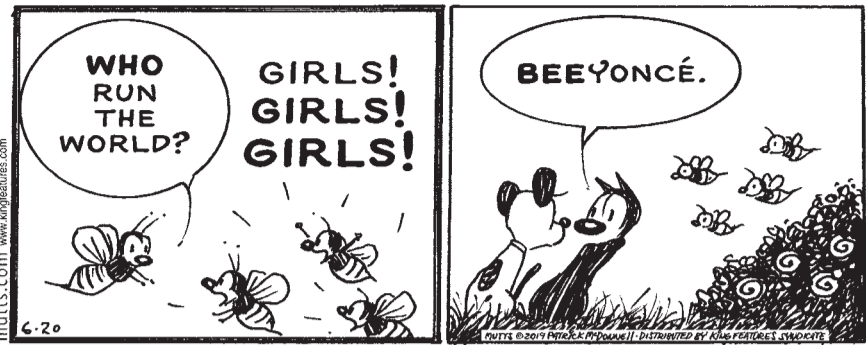
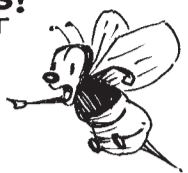
Associated Press

but it has already signaled that it is prepared to take that action in order to help stabilize the U.S. economy if trade disputes cut into growth. Investors are betting on at least one interest rate cut this year, possibly

as early as July. The Fed's statement comes a day after the head of the European Central Bank said it was ready to cut interest rates and provide additional economic stimulus if necessary. □

Mutts

ALL WORKER BEES ARE FEMALE, AND ONLY WE HAVE STINGERS! BOY, DON'T EVEN TRY TO TOUCH THIS!



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8			7	3		
5			1		2		8
	9						
7			6	1			
	6					9	
			2	3			7
						7	
8		1		2			6
	7		9			5	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/20

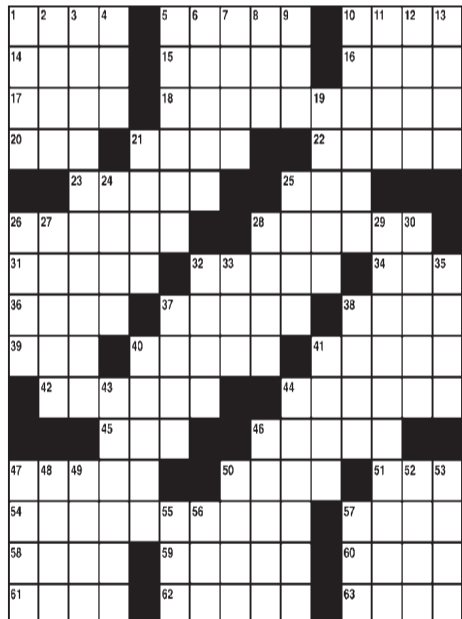
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	2	8	3	7	1	4	5	9
7	1	3	4	9	5	8	6	2
5	4	9	6	2	8	3	1	7
9	7	2	8	5	3	6	4	1
8	5	1	2	4	6	9	7	3
3	6	4	9	1	7	5	2	8
2	8	5	7	3	4	1	9	6
4	9	6	1	8	2	7	3	5
1	3	7	5	6	9	2	8	4

ACROSS

- 1 Clenched hand
- 5 Summarize
- 10 Mont Blanc's range
- 14 Bread spread
- 15 Build
- 16 Twofold
- 17 Easter flower
- 18 One of Columbus' ships
- 20 Shameful grade
- 21 Has to
- 22 Insurance policy seller
- 23 Doorbell
- 25 Hurry
- 26 Contemptuous writing
- 28 Midwest state
- 31 Relish tray item
- 32 Weight revealer
- 34 Egg drink
- 36 Ice on the sea
- 37 Actor Clark
- 38 Night twinkler
- 39 Element whose symbol is Sn
- 40 Untrue
- 41 Actor & director Lee
- 42 Accompany and protect
- 44 Elegant; stylish
- 45 Wheel center
- 46 Snapshot
- 47 Steve or Tim
- 50 Act of faith?
- 51 TV crime drama series
- 54 Outer limits
- 57 Dock
- 58 Path
- 59 Baker's tool
- 60 Polio vaccine developer
- 61 Nervous
- 62 Found a total
- 63 Troubles



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 6/20/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

SPAT	SCAN	ELMO
NICER	PALE	GOAL
UNCLE	ARISTOTLE	
GEE	BAR	TWISTS
NEARS	LIS	
ROTATE	VICTOR	
ACUTE	WHINE	POP
PEAS	PRONG	SPUR
TAT	SIEGE	VIRGO
NEWTON	MELEES	
HEN	PANTS	
STRIPE	ADD	SOW
COUNSELOR	OLIVE	
ODIN	RAFT	RAVEL
TONY	SWAY	MEND

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DOWN

- 1 Pleat
- 2 Nastase of tennis
- 3 Choices
- 4 Gift for a child

- 5 Take up again
- 6 Clear the slate
- 7 Penny
- 8 up; misbehave
- 9 School parents' org.
- 10 Proverbs
- 11 Tempt
- 12 Arthritis symptom
- 13 Bench board
- 19 Northeastern state
- 21 Deep mud
- 24 Honey source
- 25 Vigorous
- 26 Like a baby's skin
- 27 Yank Reynolds
- 28 smoothie; healthy shake
- 29 Standoffish
- 30 up; absorbs
- 32 Lake City
- 33 Major TV network
- 35 Author Zane
- 37 Apparel
- 38 Falling-out
- 40 Located
- 41 Pig's lunch
- 43 Vice president after Gore
- 44 Ran after
- 46 Irritate
- 47 Skilled
- 48 Burden
- 49 Breathing organ
- 50 Committed
- 52 Peddle
- 53 Pestors
- 55 As blind bat
- 56 Get of; shed
- 57 Letter from Greece

# Alabama man denies feeding meth to 'attack squirrel'

By JAY REEVES

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)** — An Alabama man wanted on drug and weapons charges has posted a video denying he fed methamphetamine to a so-called "attack squirrel" that he considers a pet.

Mickey Paulk posted the video on his Facebook page Tuesday night as authorities continued searching for him. It shows him stroking a rodent that he indicates was the same one

seized during a search and then released by authorities.

"You can't give squirrels meth; it would kill 'em. I'm pretty sure, (but) I've never tried it," he said.

He said the squirrel, which he kept as a pet, was safe and not a threat to anyone.

"The public isn't in danger in any kind of way from the methed-out squirrel in the neighborhood," Paulk said with a laugh. □

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Groud floor 27 and 28 weeks remain

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Garden view \$8000 each

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Studio week # 24 biulding 6

6th floor 30 weeks remain

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2 BR 2 .5 Bath wk 22

2 balcony ocean view 32

Weeks remain \$ 7500

1 Br wk # 23 and 24

16 and 14 weeks remain

5th and 2 th floor \$13K both

weeks

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1 BR and Studio lockout wk 27

Studio wk # 28 1 Br \$7500

Studio \$6500

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1 BR OceanView \$12 K

1 BR OceanFront \$18 K

2 BR OceanView \$18 K

2 BR OceanFront \$ 28 K

Gold season

1 BR OceanView \$6 K

2 BR OceanView \$8 K

2 BR OceanFront \$12 K

### Marriott Surf Club

Platinum season

2 BR Garden View \$15 K

2 BR Ocean View \$ 17 K

2 BR Ocean side \$18 K

2 BR Ocean Front \$ 27 K

3 BR Ocean View \$ 28 K

### Marriott Surf Club

Gold Season

2 BR Garden View \$ 7 K

2 BR Ocean View \$8 K

2 BR Ocean Side \$9 K

2 BR Ocean Front \$12 K

3 BR Ocean View \$15 K

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# Scientists take a peek behind those sad puppy dog eyes

By JEREMY REHM

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — What's behind those hard-to-resist puppy dog eyes?

New research suggests that over thousands of years of dog domestication, people preferred pups that could pull off that appealing, sad look. And that encouraged the development of the facial muscle that creates it. Today, pooches use the muscle to raise their eyebrows and make the baby-like expression. That muscle is virtually absent in their ancestors, the wolves.

"You don't typically see such muscle differences in species that are that closely related," said Anne Burrows of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, an author of the study released Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dogs differ from wolves in many ways, from having shorter snouts, smaller sizes and more expressive faces. And unlike wolves, dogs heavily rely on human eye contact, whether to know when someone's talking to them or when they can't solve a problem, like hop-



This Feb. 18, 2014 shows Lexy, a therapy dog at Fort Bragg, N.C. A study released on Monday, June 17, 2019 suggests that over thousands of years of dog domestication, people preferred dogs that could pull off the puppy dog eyes look.

Associated Press

ping a fence or getting out the door.

Burrows and her colleagues examined the eye muscles in the cadavers of six dogs and two wolves. They found dogs have a meaty eye muscle to lift their eyebrows and make puppy dog eyes. But in wolves, the same muscle was stringy or missing.

The scientists also recorded 27 dogs and nine wolves as each stared at a person.

Pet pooches frequently and intensely pulled back their eyebrows to make sad expressions, while the wolves rarely made these faces, and never with great intensity.

The researchers believe dogs, over their relatively short 33,000 years of domestication, used this eye muscle to communicate, possibly goading people to feed or care for them — or at least take them out to

play. And people, perhaps unwittingly, obliged.

Dog experts not involved with the study were impressed.

"The implications are quite profound," said Brian Hare from Duke University and who edited the article. Hare wrote in an email that these muscles almost certainly developed because they gave dogs an advantage when interacting with people, and people have

been unaware of it.

"The proof has been in their puppy dog eyes all this time!" he said.

Evan MacLean at the University of Arizona called the findings fascinating, but cautioned that the muscle difference could be an indirect effect of other changes rather than a specific response to human influence.

Clive Wynne of the Canine Science Collaboratory at Arizona State University said: "Kudos to the researchers for thinking of a cool way to investigate an important aspect of dogs' success" with humans.

But he noted in an email that the study has a few snags, particularly the small sampling — only five dog breeds were examined and videos were mainly of Staffordshire bull terriers — and the lack of background information about each animal.

"Did these wolves regularly meet people bearing gifts that might be worth asking for with an endearing face?" he asked.

Burrows said she planned follow-up studies to examine more breeds. □



In this Aug. 6, 2017, file photo, provided by NOAA Fisheries a North Pacific right whale swims in the Bering Sea west of Bristol Bay.

Associated Press

# Scientists record singing by rare right whale for first time

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**

— Federal marine biologists have recorded singing by one of the rarest whales on the planet.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration researchers used moored acoustic recorders to capture repeated patterns of calls made by male North Pacific right whales, the first time any right whale songs in any population have been documented, said NOAA Fisheries marine biologist Jessica Crance on Wednesday from Seattle. She spoke to southern right whale and North Atlantic right whale experts to confirm that singing had not previously been documented.

The number of eastern

North Pacific right whales is estimated at just 30 animals from a population largely wiped out by whalers. The slow-moving whales remained buoyant after death and were targeted by whalers.

Researchers detected four distinct songs over eight years at five locations in the Bering Sea off Alaska's southwest coast. Weird patterns of sound were first noted during a summer field survey in 2010, Crance said.

"We thought it might be a right whale, but we didn't get visual confirmation," she said.

Humpback, bowhead and other whales are known for their songs.

NOAA Fisheries researchers

reviewed long-term data from acoustic recorders and noted repeating patterns of the sound patterns. However, it took until a voyage in 2017 to coordinate a right whale song with a sighting of the male making it, Crance said.

Right whales make a variety of sounds. A predominant call sounds like a gunshot. They also make upcalls, downcalls, moans, screams and warbles.

To be a song, the sounds have to contain rhythmically patterned series of units produced in a consistent manner to form clearly recognizable patterns, Crance wrote in a paper for the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America. □

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# Joy Harjo is first Native American named US poet laureate

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Joy Harjo, the first Native American to be named U.S. poet laureate, has been ready for a long time.

"I've been an unofficial poetry ambassador — on the road for poetry for years," the 68-year-old Harjo wrote in a recent email to The Associated Press. "I've often been the only poet or Native poet-person that many have seen/met/heard. I've introduced many poetry audiences to Native poetry and audiences not expecting poetry to be poetry."

Her appointment was announced Wednesday by Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, who said in a statement that Harjo helped tell an "American story" of traditions both lost and maintained, of "reckoning and myth-making." Harjo's term is for one year and she succeeds Tracy K. Smith, who served two terms. The position is officially called "Poet Laureate Consultant



In this June 6, 2019 photo, Joy Harjo, of the United States, poses inside the Library of Congress, in Washington.

Associated Press

in Poetry," with a \$35,000 stipend. Harjo will have few specific responsibilities, but other laureates have launched initiatives, most recently Smith's tour of rural

communities around the country.

"I don't have a defined project right now, but I want to bring the contribution of poetry of the tribal

nations to the forefront and include it in the discussion of poetry," says Harjo, an enrolled member of the Muscogee Creek Nation and a native of Tulsa,

Oklahoma. "This country is in need of deep healing. We're in a transformational moment in national history and earth history, so whichever way we move is going to absolutely define us."

She is known for such collections as "The Woman Who Fell From the Sky" and "In Mad Love and War" and for a forceful, intimate style that draws upon the natural and spiritual world. Her previous honors include the PEN Open Book Award and the Wallace Stevens Award for lifetime achievement. Earlier this year, she was awarded the Jackson Prize, given by Poets & Writers, for a poet of merit who deserves more attention.

Harjo is currently editing an anthology of Native poets, and a new book of her own poems, "An American Sunrise," comes out in August (her publisher, W.W. Norton, moved it up from its planned September release). □

# Styles get romantic in Paris menswear with verdant blooms

By THOMAS ADAMSON

**PARIS (AP)** — The renewed interest in brand Off-White continued this season at Paris Fashion Week, after its founder and designer Virgil Abloh last year became the first African-American to head a major European fashion house, at Louis Vuitton menswear.

For his Wednesday show in Paris' Le Marais area, Abloh sent spring wafting into the air.

Here are some highlights of men's spring-summer 2020 runway shows.

## OFF-WHITE GOES ROMANTIC

A verdant grass field dazzling with thousands of planted wild white flowers met guests in the 19th century former market hall the Carreau du Temple with decorative forged iron pillars.

The romantic theme introduced by the decor seemed to influence the menswear styles themselves in a collection that shifted the usual hard, ur-



Model Gigi Hadid, centre, wears a creation for the Off White mens Spring-Summer 2020 fashion collection presented in Paris, Wednesday, June 19.

Associated Press

ban Off-White aesthetic in a slightly more dreamy direction.

A crop-sleeved sweater evoked a gentleness with its multicolor knit and boxy shape, while the black

combat pants that twinned the garment below were given a soft touch with speckles of white paint.

A sheer white anorak in loose, lightweight material seemed to float down the

torso, and its long A-line evoked the shapes of a 19th-century dandy coat. The piece de resistance? A giant arty patchwork scarf that evoked the work of Austrian symbolist painter

Gustav Klimt.

## RIHANNA'S FENTY

Fenty, the new fashion house of popstar-turned-designer Rihanna, is rolling out its clothes online on a See-Now-Buy-Now basis to coincide with fashion week.

It's an open question whether this kind of business model will garner the same attention as a conventional catwalk show, but Rihanna's personal celebrity is expected to bridge that gap. Rihanna is marking the release of the online collection entitled "Release 6-19" with special pop-up in The Webster in New York running Wednesday until the end of June.

Previews of the garments were sent by the LVMH-owned house to media and featured color-rich, sportswear-infused dresses with ruched detailing.

Oversize printed T-shirts that championed the Barbados-born singer's immigrant story were also a centerpiece of the collection. □

# Netflix's first Arabic original sparks backlash on home turf

Associated Press

**AMMAN, Jordan (AP)** — On a high school trip to Jordan's ancient city of Petra, a group of teenagers sneak out at night to drink beer, smoke weed and gossip around a bonfire. A girl asks her frisky boyfriend to take things slow. By global Netflix standards, its first original Arabic series "Jinn" hardly pushes the envelope. But when the show debuted last week, many

Jordanians were shocked and appalled by a program that had been billed as a point of national pride. Some Twitter users blasted the series as pornographic. Government ministers vowed to censor it. Jordan's grand mufti denounced it as "a moral degradation." Lawmakers called an emergency session. The attorney general demanded the cyber-crimes unit "take immediate, necessary ac-



This undated photo provided by Netflix shows a scene from the series "Jinn."

Associated Press

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PATTON OSWALT | KEVIN HART

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tion" to pull it from Netflix. While the government has not made good on its threats, the outrage nonetheless has shaken Jordan's self-image as a bastion of tolerance in a turbulent region. It reflects a cultural gap between the reputation of the country's Western-allied ruling elite and conservative Muslim public, many of whom consider it "haram" — forbidden — to drink alcohol, smoke marijuana or even kiss before marriage, and look to television to deliver morality. "Jordan likes to think of itself as miles ahead of other Arab countries," said Jordanian media analyst Saed Hattar. "But the reality is, although social media is flooding millennials with more modern content, our traditional values and morals have not changed." The five-episode thriller centers on a private school in the capital of Amman, a bubble of liberalism and privilege in the country. School buses cart the teenagers off to a wide-open desert haunted by ancient demons that make strange and terrifying things happen. Prior to the release, the internet was buzzing with pride in the first Netflix original from the Middle East.

Directed by Lebanese filmmaker Mir-Jean Bou Chaaya and locally produced by Elan and Rajeev Dassani, the series, featuring an all-Jordanian cast and backdrop, sought to portray Arab youth outside Hollywood stereotypes and shine a long-awaited spotlight on Jordan's nascent TV industry. In a Netflix statement, Basel Ghandour of Jordan's first Oscar-nominated film "Theeb," hailed the series as a "real turning point" for Jordanian representation. Entertainment bloggers praised "Jinn" as an antidote to the grim news from the volatile region. Jordan rolled out the red carpet for the series premiere at an upscale Amman golf course flocked by paparazzi. The show appeared in line with the liberal, tolerant image that the Western-educated King Abdullah II and his glamorous wife Queen Rania have promoted for Jordan in spite of the country's widespread poverty, largely tribal society and authoritarian legislation. As the U.S.'s closest Arab ally, Jordan is one of the largest recipients of American aid. But the royal family's cosmopolitan reputation doesn't entirely reflect Jor-

danian society. Almost immediately following its debut, excerpts from the pilot episode spurred scathing posts on social media. Complaints were various. For starters, the actors curse in Jordanian dialect. "This will encourage teenagers to use indecent language in the streets, with their families," said Laith al-Tantawi, a 31-year-old Amman resident. Of all places, these transgressions occur in the historic site of Petra, the country's crown jewel of tourism. But what seemed to bother viewers most was the kiss. "I will never allow my children to watch it. This is impossible," said Khetam al-Kiswani, 42, a mother from Amman. "It contradicts our morals, society and our religion, it contradicts everything." Hattar, the media analyst, said that while far more scandalous American shows flood the country's screens, he had never before seen Jordanian actors kiss on TV. "Much of the country lives in camps and rural areas and follows the orders of patriarchal society. They do not condone such public displays, even if these things happen privately," he said. □

## The legacy of Denzel: Key moments from Washington AFI honors

By KATIE CAMPIONE

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A night dedicated to an artist as prolific as Denzel Washington is bound to be an emotional one. The Oscar-winning actor, director, and producer is the face of some of the best-known films of the last few decades, including "Fences," "Training Day," "Malcolm X," and "Philadelphia." Naturally, he's touched a few lives along the way.

Some of the entertainment industry's biggest stars packed the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood on June 6 to sing his praises and honor him for receiving the American Film Institute's 2019 Life Achievement Award. He joined the ranks of Morgan Freeman, George Clooney and Meryl Streep. As stars like Chadwick Boseman and Julia Roberts spoke about his impact, they carved out a deserved space for him among those other Hollywood greats and brought the audience on an emotional journey. The AFI tribute to Washington airs Thursday at 10 p.m. on TNT.

### ADMIRATION FROM A FORMER TEACHER

Roberts, the night's first presenter, set the tone for the evening by recalling lessons she learned from Washington throughout her career.

The actors first met on the set of "The Pelican Brief" over 25 years ago and have remained friends. Roberts sat at Washington's table during the show, whispering with Washington's wife, Pauletta.

For the most heartfelt part of her speech, Roberts turned to the words of someone who knew her friend at the outset of his career: Robert Stone, Washington's acting coach at Fordham University.

"If there is such thing as a genius, I assure you Mr. Washington is one," Roberts said, reading from an early letter of recommendation that Washington still carries in his wallet. Roberts relayed Stone's message that Washington was the best actor he'd ever worked with.



In this June 6, 2019, file photo, actor Denzel Washington addresses the audience during the 47th AFI Life Achievement Award ceremony honoring him in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Roberts smiled warmly, and echoed Stone's words, calling Washington "the greatest of any time."

### FROM 'GLORY' TO KILLMONGER

Long before Michael B. Jordan brought the lethal Erik Killmonger to life in Marvel's "Black Panther," he was taking notes from one of Washington's early performances.

"We wish for his wizard-like power to channel the intricacy of the human emotion," Jordan said, specifi-

cally mentioning "Glory" as a source of inspiration for him.

In the 1989 Civil War drama, Washington's character, Private Trip, bears scars on his back from life as a slave. Jordan said Washington's commitment to his character inspired his approach to the role of a Marvel villain.

"I heard stories that when you were huddled around the campfire in that film, you weren't supposed to be shirtless, but you still had the scars put on your back

so you could feel it. So you could know that's what your character's been through," Jordan told Washington. Jordan said he took inspiration from the story and employed the same technique when shooting "Black Panther."

### A SONG FOR 'MR. WASHINGTON'

Jennifer Hudson is known for her soulful, raw performances. Her rendition of Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come" during the AFI gala did not disappoint.

With little instrumentation or fanfare, Hudson soared to the top of her vocal range, leaving the audience in awe. Washington was one of the first to his feet as Hudson belted out the last few notes, the theater plunging into silence before erupting in applause.

Hudson didn't let herself leave the stage without extending a few words of her own toward the actor.

"We love you so much, Mr. Washington," she said as she bowed.

### A CHARITABLE ACT THAT INFLUENCED 'BLACK PANTHER'

Michael B. Jordan isn't the only "Black Panther" actor influenced by Washington's achievements. Boseman told the audience that a scholarship sponsored by Washington paid for his tuition to attend a summer dramatic acting academy at Oxford, and now he could publicly thank him for it.

"I know personally that your generosity extends past what you have given on the stage and screen," Boseman said.

The young actor said he wrote a letter to Washington, hoping that it would find him and believing it was the only expression of gratitude he'd ever be able to make. "What mattered even more than the amount that you gave is that it was you doing the giving," Boseman said. □

## Neither fire nor fury for Wolff's new Trump book

By HILLEL ITALIE  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The sequel to Michael Wolff's million-selling "Fire and Fury" is not attracting the same kind of interest, not even from President Donald Trump.

NPD BookScan reported Wednesday just 17,756 first-week sales for "Siege," Wolff's latest account of the Trump White House. It ranked just No. 11 overall, well behind the top seller, Delia Owens' novel "Where the Crawdads Sing."

"Fire and Fury" sold more than 25,000 copies its first week despite a shortage

of supply due to enormous, and unexpected, demand and sold nearly 200,000 copies the following week, according to BookScan, which tracks around 85% of physical book sales.

"Fire and Fury" went on to become one of the biggest books of 2018 despite doubts about its accuracy, although its portrait of a chaotic and feuding administration was largely affirmed by such subsequent releases as Bob Woodward's "Fear."

Trump has largely ignored "Siege," which has few of the headline-making details of "Fire and Fury."

The president tweeted angrily about Wolff's previous book, saying it was "Full of lies, misrepresentations and sources that don't exist." Former White House strategist Steve Bannon was a key source for "Fire and Fury" and was mocked by Trump as "Sloppy Steve" after making such inflammatory comments as calling a 2016 Trump Tower meeting with Russian officials "treasonous."

Bannon is again featured in "Siege," but with the narrative focused on events following his departure, he serves more as commentator than participant. □



This cover image released by Henry Holt and Company shows "Siege: Trump Under Fire," by Michael Wolff.

Associated Press

# On tiny Linosa, it's easy to adopt island's relaxed rhythms

By **FRANCES D'EMILIO**

Associated Press

**LINOSA ISLAND, Italy (AP)**

— There are no hotels, but islanders open up their simple, gaily painted homes to those seeking relaxed rhythms.

No banks either, but there's not a lot of money can be bought here. The sole souvenir shop has a few knickknacks. Costs are modest for meals made from local ingredients — lentils, eggplant, peppers perhaps, plus the catch of the day from the emerald-hued, pristine waters surrounding tiny Linosa island.

But stunning natural beauty is free and abundant on this verdant paradise that rises up in the form of an extinct volcano from the Mediterranean seabed.

Of the many splendid small Italian islands that dot the Mediterranean waters near Sicily, only Linosa had eluded me, vacation after vacation, perhaps because it takes some determination to get here. Unlike some other islands, like Pantelleria, where Italian VIPs keep summer homes, or Lampedusa, known for lively nightlife, there are no flights from the Italian peninsula, no airport.

To enjoy Linosa's charms, either you take a long ride by ferry, or, if waters are calm, an infrequent hydrofoil from the nondescript Sicilian port town of Porto Empedocle. Or you make a shorter sea journey from Lampedusa, the only other inhabited island in the Pe-



In this photo taken on Sunday, Sept. 9, 2018 a woman swims in a cove of pristine water surrounded by volcanic rock formations on the island of Linosa, some 167 km (103.5 miles) south of Sicily, southern Italy.

Associated Press

lagie Archipelago, closer to northern Africa than to Sicily.

This year, in the waning weeks of summer, I came, accounting by my mere presence for about 5 percent of sojourners those days on Linosa. We swam or snorkeled in coves cradled by dramatically dark, jagged lava rocks, climbed volcanic craters and watched sunsets near the black-sand beach where caretta caretta loggerhead turtles waddle ashore each year to lay their eggs. On any given day during "high" season in July and August, there are at most about 50 holiday-goers who spend a few days or

so. In September, there were some 20 of us, several of us solitary travelers. With the exception of a French couple and myself, all were Italians.

Those numbers compare to a year-round resident population of about 300 Linosani, as the locals call themselves. In the sole town, tidy streets are lined with houses in hues of fiery ochre trimmed with orange, robin-blue highlight by white, or sea green with doors framed in red.

In early morning — afternoon temperatures in one of Italy's hottest places can climb into the 90s in Fahrenheit (in the low to mid 30s in Celsius) and feel like 115 or higher — Linosani come out to sweep the tiled sidewalks and water potted plants, including hibiscus that grow as tall as trees. With the cool of the evening, Linosani emerge again, parking kitchen chairs outside homes to chat with neighbors. After a couple of strolls in the few streets, visitors can befriend much of Linosa's population.

"After a few days, you become islanders, too," said Alberto Ramirez, who runs one of the two B&Bs on the island and whose family has lived here for six generations.

Linosa's only "night spot" is a wine bar, which, on a late summer Saturday night, closed up shop before midnight.

Ramirez recalled a couple who lodged by him recently telling him, "Linosa's not for us, it's too tranquil."

"Here you come to relax, go to the sea, maybe have an 'aperitivo' in the evening," Ramirez said. "There's no disco."

On maps, Linosa resembles a roundish speck in the sea. One can stroll around the entire island, whose coastal perimeter measures 11 kilometers (under 7 miles), in a few hours.

Only residents can bring cars on the island during

summer, but motor scooters and motorized bikes can be rented by the day. The electric "bici" are a big hit as well with Linosani, whose cars are easily recognizable because the salty sea air corrodes the paint.

Come nightfall in late summer or early fall, on the northerly side of the island you can hear the cries of thousands in a fascinating feathered colony of greater shearwater birds. The bird is known as berta maggiore in Italian. A large group of them fly up and over the Mediterranean from Libya and Algeria, their cheek pouches full of fish for young chicks which have hatched in crannies left by lava rocks near the seaside.

After Linosa's first modern settlement was established, in 1845, with 30 hardy souls, the islanders would eat the birds' eggs, rich in protein. Now the birds' evening rituals help feed the island's economic mainstay, tourism.

Giovanni Grana passionately shares with a handful of tourists on his plain wooden motorboat the details he's learned about shearwater flocks habits from his nightly observations. He makes the facts of bird life sound like poetry. "My aim is to make the tourists fall in love with the island," said Grana.

For a reasonable fee (about 25 euros, or \$29), he takes visitors out to sea just before sunset to witness an amazing spectacle. □



In this photo taken on Monday, Sept. 10, 2018, a resident walks along a main street in the town of Linosa, on the island of Linosa, some 167 km (103.5 miles) south of Sicily, southern Italy.

Associated Press



In this photo taken on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2018, a cat sits on a flower pot, bottom right, along painted steps in the town of Linosa, on the island of Linosa, some 167 km (103.5 miles) south of Sicily, southern Italy.

Associated Press